THE

GOBRECHT

JOURNAL

For Collectors
of the
LIBERTY SEATED COIN SERIES

VOLUME SIXTEEN ISSUE #48

Larry Briggs Rare Coins

HALF DIMES

1842-O	AU, old cleaning	$950
1846	Choice VG	125
1858	Choice Proof	850
1859	Choice Proof	450
1863	XF/AU	285
1863	Gem UNC	850
1865	Choice BU	750
1866	Choice XF	400
1866-S	PCGS-60	350

DIMES

1845-O	PL AU	$750
1846	XF	325
1858	Choice Proof	1200
1858-S	XF/AU, light marks	350
1863	Choice BU	775
1863	Gem UNC	1250
1865	Gem UNC	1650
1866	Gem UNC	2250
1867	Choice Proof	785
1872-CC	VG	450
1873-CC	VG	800
1877-CC	Choice BU	550
1879	VF+, cleaned	250

QUARTERS

1842	PL AU, rare	$1250
1842-O	Small Date, G/VG	325
1849	Choice AU	275
1851-O	Choice F/VF	350
1852	Gem UNC	2500
1854-O	Huge O, Choice VF/XF	250
1857	Possible Proof	400
1857-O	Toned Choice AU	225
1859	Proof, rare	650
1859-S	XF/AU, cleaned	375
1861-S	XF+, light cleaning	450
1866-S	Choice F-12	275
1867	Choice BU, very rare	1500
1869	VF/XF	350
1870-CC	VF, porous surfaces	1400
1871	Choice Proof	600
1872	Choice Proof	600
1873	Arrows, Ch. BU, mark in field	325
1873-CC	Arrows, VF/XF	3000
1882	Choice VF/XF	190
1883	XF/AU, light cleaning	350

HALF DOLLARS

1841	XF, old cleaning	$250
1842-O	Small Date, G/VG	680
1842-O	Small Date, Choice VF-20, ANACS	1750
1846	6 over horiz. 6, cleaned AU	650
1846-O	Tall date, Choice XF	950
1846-O	Tall Date, AU, old cleaning	1500
1849	Doubled Date, R-7, Ch. XF	4000
1851	Choice VF/XF	450
1852-O	AU, cleaned	400
1855-S	VF/XF	1250
1856-S	AU, dipped	900
1861-O	Confederate half, AU	500
1866	PL, Choice BU	750
1867	Slider BU, two obverse ticks	400
1870-CC	Nice Good	425
1871-CC	XF, old cleaning	650
1871-CC	XF/AU, cleaned	900
1872-CC	XF, sharp	500
1873-CC	No Arrows, Choice XF	750
1873-CC	No Arrows, cleaned AU	2250
1873-CC	Arrows, XF	800
1873-CC	Arrows, UNC but cleaned	2400
1874-CC	Choice G/VG	240
1874-CC	Proof-like Gem BU, possibly finest known	20,000
1876-CC	XF/AU, dipped	150
1878-CC	G/VG	275
1878-CC	AU	2250
1879	XF+, dipped	350
1880	AU+, dipped	425
1881	VF/XF, weak E	255
1882	Choice XF	380
1884	Choice BU	1000
1885	G/VG	265
1885	Choice XF	475
1886	Choice BU	700
1887	AU	700
1887	BU	900
1888	Choice Proof	585
1889	BU, dipped	450
1890	Choice BU	575

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1873-CC	VF, light marks	$4250
1873-CC	VF/XF, whizzed	6000

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An Analysis of the Probability of Undiscovered Die Varieties within the Liberty Seated Half Dime Series

by

Stephen A. Crain

Unlike modern coins that are cloned by the hundreds of millions from identical dies, the Liberty Seated series abounds with many minor and some major die varieties resulting from differences in the way individual dies were prepared. The hubbing process used a master hub to produce multiple working dies and was implemented during the period of the Liberty Seated design. But these early hubs contained only the major obverse and reverse devices. Minor features and numerals, particularly on the obverse, were punched into the dies by hand, producing minor variations in the alignment and spacing of these features. Through careful study, it is possible to identify individual die pairs, or *marriages,* that were used to strike individual specimens. Die polishing, repunching of the same or different numerals, and other reworking of the dies produced clues that aid in the identification of individual dies. As the dies wore and were re-tooled and pressed into further service, many developed minor cracks or breaks that left telltale signs on the coins struck from them. As the dies continued to deteriorate during use, progressive die states can be identified from the diagnostic evidence appearing on the coins.

The very earliest Federal coinage was produced from individual hand engraved dies, making identification of different die pairs relatively easy. With the introduction of the hubbing process, required to meet the ever increasing demands for coinage, the diagnostic process became increasingly more difficult.

The study and collecting of a series by die variety provides unlimited enjoyment for the patient numismatic student. After considering relative availability and economics, a reasonable goal might be to assemble a complete date, mintmark and variety collection of Liberty Seated half dimes. Other than the Liberty Seated dollar, this series is shorter than that for any other Liberty Seated denomination. The Coinage Act of 1873 eliminated the half dime in that year, replaced it by the Shield Nickel first struck in 1866. Unlike the Liberty Seated quarter and half dollar series, this series has a comprehensive reference work identifying the known die varieties. This book is *The United States Half Dimes* by D.W. Valentine published in 1931. Previous works by Harold P. Newlin and Will W. Neil were expanded upon, and later supplements by Walter Breen, Doug Winter, and Q. David Bowers have greatly expanded the collective knowledge of the series. Many varieties in the half dime series have been identified, and continue to be identified up to the present time in the pages of the *Journal.*

Liberty Seated half dimes were minted continually for thirty-six years, from 1837 to 1873. Only 84,739,435 half dimes were struck in that period, a total roughly equal to the number of 1903 Indian 1¢ pieces produced. This is considerably less than the total mintage for Shield Nickels which supplanted the half dime, yet the Shield Nickel was minted for a period of only 18 years. Indeed, more Shield Nickels were struck in their first four years of issue than all Liberty Seated half dimes ever produced.

With the wealth of information and documentation existing for this series, is it likely that new and different varieties will continue to be discovered? It is the opinion of this author, and many other devotees of the series, that much remains to be discovered. There is a high probability that many more varieties exist, waiting to be discovered by the patient and alert numismatist.

As with any treasure hunt, the search is greatly facilitated by the existence of a map or plan of where to search. Such a plan may be devised from a careful statistical analysis of the half dime series. For most issues, relatively accurate mintage figures exist, although figures for some notable issues have been debated. In addition, unlike most other Liberty Seated denominations, a fairly definitive study was conducted by Valentine in 1931 listing nearly all known varieties at that time. Although this list has been greatly expanded upon in the ensuing years, no one has taken the time or effort to update this reference and list all known die varieties as of the present time. Theoretically, no such list will ever be complete, as there is always the possibility of new discoveries. However, to facilitate this discussion, we will use the varieties listed by Valentine as our benchmark.

If one were to simply divide the known mintages of each date and mintmark by the number of *known* die varieties for that issue, we would arrive at a theoretical quantity of coins struck by each die pair. These figures could than be compared to known die life figures to determine the probability of the existence of more die varieties for each issue. Such predictions do not guarantee the existence of additional die varieties, but rather, they merely serve to suggest the probability of undiscovered varieties. As each die put into service represents another potential variety, a means of estimating the die population allows us to predict which issue might warrant further study.

Accurate records on specific quantities of dies used, or the number of coins struck from each pair of dies, are not available. This problem is further complicated by the knowledge that obverse and reverse dies had different life expectancies, and were not necessarily replaced in pairs. In general, obverse dies wore more quickly than reverse dies, and thus were replaced more often. This was due, in part, to the fact that the reverse die remained stationary and was enclosed within the collar that produced the edge reeding, while the obverse die moved with the coin press mechanism. In addition, obverse dies contained the date and were replaced or re-punched each year, while the reverse die often could be reused in subsequent years.

From the available literature, it is reasonable to assume that, on average, no more than 250,000 coins were likely to have been struck from a single die. While this number is not to be considered a precise quantity for each die pair, it is unlikely that many dies of this era struck more than 250,000 coins. Michael Hodder writes, in *Rare Coin Review* No. 74, Autumn 1989, that between 150,000 and 360,000 coins were struck from individual dies for the 1¢, 5¢, and 10¢ pieces of 1897. This compares with only 4,000 to 18,000 coins-per-die for the same denominations in 1796. By 1988, it was estimated that 300,000 to 1.1 million coins were able to be struck from a single die. Given the natural progression of the state-of-the-art during the middle of the nineteenth century, a nominal figure of 250,000 coins-per-die would seem reasonable and appropriate.

The table in Figure 1 lists all date and mintmark issues of the Liberty Seated half dimes, together with the published mintage figures and number of die varieties known to Valentine. Die states are not included, as these are progressive later die states of previously listed die varieties. The ratio of coins struck-per-die has been calculated and tabulated.

From the table, the average number of coins struck-per-die is 328,447. This would seem to stretch the presumed average die life, hinting at the possibility of undiscovered die varieties. A total of twenty-seven (27) issues yield ratios of 250,000 or more coins-per-die. They are listed in order of increasing ratio in the table in Figure 2. These specific issues are worthy of study as probable sources of new undiscovered die varieties.

Figure 1

UNITED STATES LIBERTY SEATED HALF DIMES
estimates of number of coins struck per die

DATE	MINTAGE (1)	DIE (2) VARIETIES	COINS-PER-DIE (3)
1837	1,405,000	6	234,000
1838	2,225,000	14	159,000
1838-O	70,000	2	35,000
1839	1,069,150	2	535,000
1839-O	1,034,039	6	172,000
1840 ND	1,034,000	6	172,000
1840-O ND	695,000	4	174,000
1840 WD	310,085	1	310,000
1840-O WD	240,000	1	240,000
1841	1,150,000	3	383,000
1841-O	815,000	4	204,000
1842	815,000	4	204,000
1842-O	350,000	3	117,000
1843	1,165,000	6	194,000
1844	430,000	3	143,000
1844-O	220,000	2	110,000
1845	1,564,000	6	261,000
1846	27,000	1	27,000
1847	1,274,000	5	255,000
1848	668,000	7	95,000
1848-O	600,000	2	300,000
1849	1,309,000	8	164,000
1849-O	140,000	2	70,000
1850	955,000	5	191,000
1850-O	690,000	4	173,000
1851	781,000	2	391,000
1851-O	860,000	2	430,000
1852	1,000,500	4	250,000
1852-O	260,000	1	260,000
1853 NA	135,000	1	135,000
1853-O NA	160,000	1	160,000
1853 WA	13,210,020	11	1,200,000
1853-O WA	2,200,000	4	550,000
1854	5,740,000	6	957,000
1854-O	1,560,000	4	390,000
1855	1,750,000	6	292,000
1855-O	600,000	1	600,000

DATE	MINTAGE	DIE VARIETIES	COINS-PER-DIE
1856	4,880,000	8	610,000
1856-O	1,100,000	5	220,000
1857	7,280,000	9	809,000
1857-O	1,380,000	6	230,000
1858	3,500,000	8	438,000
1858-O	1,660,000	4	415,000
1859	340,000	2	170,000
1859-O	560,000	3	187,000
1860	799,000	3	266,000
1860-O	1,060,000	5	212,000
1861	3,361,000	3	1,120,000
1862	1,492,550	6	249,000
1863	18,460	1	18,000
1863-S	100,000	1	100,000
1864	14,470 (5)	1	14,000
1864-S	90,000	1	90,000
1865	13,500	1	14,000
1865-S	120,000	2	60,000
1866	10,725	1	11,000
1866-S	120,000	1	120,000
1867	8,625	2	4,000
1867-S	120,000	1	120,000
1868	89,200	2	45,000
1868-S	280,000	1	280,000
1869	208,600	4	52,000
1869-S	230,000	2	115,000
1870	536,000	6	89,000
1870-S (6)	1	1	1
1871	1,873,960	5	375,000
1871-S	161,000	1	161,000
1872	2,947,950	5	590,000
1872-S	837,000	4	209,000
1873	712,600	2	356,000
1873-S	324,000	1	324,000
71	84,739,435	258 (4)	TOTALS

(1) Mintage figures taken from A Guidebook of United States Coins, R.S. Yeoman. Racine, WI 1988.
(2) Die varieties as listed in The United States Half Dimes, D.W. Valentine. N.Y., N.Y. 1931.
(3) Reported mintage + number of die varieties known to Valentine (rounded off to nearest 1000).
(4) Individual die varieties (only). Progressive die states of same die not listed.
(5) Mintage figure estimated by Kamal Ahwash, Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume Number 1, pg.44..
(6) Unknown to Valentine.

Are there any surprises that appear within the table? Perhaps a few. But most noticeable, after some study, is a definite pattern. In general, issues with the highest mintages have the highest ratios of coins struck-per-die. This may be due, in part, to the fact that the Mint director had a large specified mintage to produce, and thus stretched die life as far as was practical to minimize the number of dies required. This is evidenced by the abundance of die cracked varieties for many of these high mintage years.

Another reason for the high ratios in high mintage years could be the lack of collector interest in high mintage, common coins. For example, the issue of highest mintage, 1853 with arrows, also has the highest ratio, 1.2 million coins-per-die. Such a number is highly unlikely. A more plausible explanation would be collector apathy in studying the ubiquitous 1853 with arrows issue. How many countless examples of this date have we all passed by on bourse floors or in dealers' stock, simply because it is so common? Perhaps, with a closer look, new varieties of this date will be discovered. The same would be true of the 1861 date with 1.12 million coins-per-die.

To be sure, with the increasing use of a master hub by the mid 1850s, and with more devices becoming part of the hub, it became increasingly more difficult to identify different dies, except when they began to deteriorate and crack. Thus, for many dates, discovery of new varieties may be difficult to impossible, as multiple dies prepared from the same hub are nearly impossible to differentiate.

At the other extreme, and holding to the expected pattern, would be the very low ratios for known key dates. A key date is often defined simply as a low mintage issue. Key dates generally warrant increased study which often results in more varieties being discovered. Both low mintage and increased number of varieties tend to reduce the ratio of coins struck-per-die. Accordingly, some of the lowest mintage and/or most often studied issues yield the lowest ratios. Examples would be the low mintage 1846 and 1867 dates and the higher mintage 1849 date with many popularly known over-date varieties.

According to this pattern, the very high mintage common issues from 1853 to 1861, and the 1871 and 1872 have ratios consistently above 250,000. Exceptions, like the 1859, might be explained due to lower than normal mintage and greater than normal collector interest as a one year type. Similarly, the 1856-O generates considerable interest, as it is quite scarce above XF, and may thus have been studied disproportionately to its mintage.

Other ratios that might readily be explained include the 1842-O. This low mintage issue is highly prized above the grade of VF, and has been thoroughly studied, resulting in a relatively low ratio of 117,000. Issues with high ratios can have various explanations, as well. The 1868-S has a ratio of 280,000, but is rich in die cracked specimens indicating that the dies were used longer than normal. The 1873-S, with only one known variety in 324,000 coins, has a high ratio, but as the last half dime struck, the dies were used until they cracked. Virtually all issues from 1871 to 1873 have high ratios. But as the half dime was gradually being phased out at this time, the dies were used until they deteriorated, thus resulting in these high coins-per-die ratios.

Surprises from the table would seem to occur in the issues prior to 1853. Most noticeable are the coins of 1839, 1840 WD, 1841, 1848-O, 1851, 1851-O, 1852, and 1852-O. All of these have ratios equal to or greater than 250,000. Most are considered semi-key dates, particularly the 1840 WD, 1848-O, and 1852-O, and thus worthy of in-depth study. The issues prior to 1841 had the stars punched into the dies by hand, making identification potentially easier. The 1839 is relatively common, perhaps overlooked, and warrants further study for varieties.

Figure 2

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DIMES
NUMBER OF COINS STRUCK PER DIE

250,000+		300,000+		350,000+	
1852	250,000	1848-O	300,000	1873	356,000
1847	255,000	1840 WD	310,000	1871	375,000
1852-O	260,000	1873-S	324,000	1841	383,000
1845	261,000			1854-O	390,000
1860	266,000			1851	391,000
1868-S	280,000				
1855	292,000				
400,000+		**500,000+**		**1,000,000+**	
1858-O	415,000	1839	535,000	1861	1,120,000
1851-O	430,000	1853-O	550,000	1853	1,200,000
1858	438,000	1872	590,000		
		1855-O	600,000		
		1856	610,000		
		1857	809,000		
		1854	957,000		

The 1855-O has the lowest mintage of any with arrows date and thus generates some increased interest. Is it possible that all 600,000 pieces were struck from one set of dies? It would seem unlikely. The presence of the arrows, punched into the dies by hand, make identifying individual with arrows dies easier than most dies without arrows. This issue is worthy of further study, as well.

Some anomolies in the table occur due to the existence of varieties unknown to Valentine. Most noticeable is the 1858, with a mintage of 3,500,000 and with eight varieties known to Valentine. Both the 1858 over-inverted-date and 1858/1858 were unknown to Valentine, raising the number of known varieties to at least ten and lowering the ratio from 438,000 to 350,000. Other examples of newly discovered varieties subsequent to Valentine would reduce these ratios in a similar fashion.

Simple oversight on the part of Valentine can contribute to increased ratios, as well. In 1931, when Valentine published his reference work, he listed three varieties of the 1841. The work of Will W. Neil, published in *The Numismatist* in August 1927, was well known to Valentine. In his work, Neil listed only two varieties of the 1841, yet one of these, the Neil 2, describes a reverse die cracked variety not listed by Valentine. The author's collection includes an XF specimen of the Neil 2, complete with die cracks, that is unlike any variety described by Valentine. Thus, we may assume that there are at least four varieties of the 1841, lowering the ratio from 383,000 to 288,000. The author's collection also contains two other different die cracked varieties of the 1841 not listed by either researcher, but they may simply be later die states of the listed varieties. Other such examples undoubtedly exist, and will surface only after a definitive update of the half dime reference is published.

It has been stated that there are lies, damnable lies, and statistics, in that decreasing order of credibility. Accordingly, we should not attribute too much validity to such a statistical analysis. At best, it is a relative indication of the probability of existence of yet-to-be-discovered varieties. It is by no means a guarantee of their existence. Various anomolies exist, in the present knowledge, to invalidate any such strict adherence to the figures. For example, Valentine lists two varieties for the half dime with the smallest published mintage, the 1867, with only 8,625 coins struck. However, the Neil 2 variety, with obverse die crack and second A of AMERICA low, is not either of the varieties listed by Valentine. The author has a beautiful AU-58 specimen of the 1867, attributed as Neil 2, but distinctly different from either Valentine variety. Thus, the 1867 has three varieties in a total mintage of only 8,625 coins, or a ratio of only 2875 coins-per-die.

In conclusion, it would appear from the available data that a number of undiscovered varieties of Liberty Seated half dimes may exist. A numerical study of the mintages and known die varieties, combined with some assumptions regarding the minting process, reveal dates with greater probability of yet-to-be-discovered varieties. Most notable among these would be the issues of 1839, 1840 WD, 1841, 1848-O, 1851, 1851-O, 1852, 1852-O, 1853 WA, 1853-O WA, 1854, 1854-O, 1855, 1855-O, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1858-O, 1860, 1861, 1868-S, 1871, 1872, and 1873.

All New Seated Inventory

QUARTERS

1860	VG	$ 5

HALVES

1858-O	Choice XF	$ 55
1876	Good	6

DOLLARS

1846	AU-58	$490
1847	XF	290

DOLLARS *continued*

1864	ANACS PR-62	$2500
1871	AU	390
1872	XF+	250
1872	Proof, PR-63	1900

TRADE DOLLARS

1876-S	XF	$ 90
1877	AU	175

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HALF DOLLARS

1844-O	XF	$ 65
1853	Arrows & Rays, XF	75
1854-O	UNC	500
1855-O	AU	125
1856-O	XF	60
1856-S	VG, marks	40
1859-O	XF	60
1870-CC	VG	650

DOLLARS

1840	F	$200
1840	XF, minor rim bump	395
1840	XF/AU	475
1842	XF	250
1843	XF, rim nicks	145
1843	XF, nice original	260
1843	XF	190
1844	XF, original	400
1844	XF-45, original	650
1844	UNC	1200
1845	XF+, dark original	540
1846	VF	160
1846-O	VG+	120
1846-O	XF, reverse rim bump	320
1846-O	UNC, ANACS paper	980
1847	F	115
1847	XF+, original	350
1848	VF+	425
1849	XF	310
1849	AU, original	430
1853	AU	610
1855	VF-30	1350
1856	UNC, weak strike	1100
1858	Proof-55	6200
1859	VF+	375
1859	XF, nice luster	650
1859-O	UNC	675

DOLLARS *continued*

1859-S	G+, scratches	$135
1860	XF+	625
1860-O	VF, original	140
1860-O	XF	175
1860-O	XF, nice luster	265
1860-O	XF, bright luster	275
1864	VF, obverse mark	175
1864	G/VG	135
1865	XF, reverse rim dings	250
1865	VF, original	290
1868	XF	330
1868	XF-45/45, full strike	450
1868	UNC	1000
1869	Proof	1150
1870	VF+	150
1870	PL XF	310
1870-CC	XF+	900
1871	VF+	140
1871	VF	130
1871	XF+, luster	225
1871-CC	F	2600
1872	XF, dark, nice	175
1872	XF, mark	165
1872	VF, original	135
1872-S	F+	295
1872-CC	VF	1200
1872-CC	F, minor rim bump	950
1873	XF+, original	335

TRADE DOLLARS

1874-CC	UNC, rubber band mark on reverse	$410
1875-CC	UNC, obverse carbon spot	310
1875-CC	XF, minor rim bump	165
1876	Proof	700
1877	AU-55	275
1877-S	Borderline UNC, dark	325

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Liberty Seated Dime Survey
Section II, Varieties

by
Brian Greer, Gerry Fortin, and Robert Spangler

Liberty Seated dimes have steadily become a popular challenge for the advanced variety collector. This series is blessed with outstanding reference materials which are conspicuously lacking for most other Liberty Seated series. Kam Ahwash's *Encyclopedia of Liberty Seated Dimes* provides an outstanding reference with enlarged photographs and detailed descriptions of most varieties. Additionally, the *Journal* has provided updated information on new discoveries and further information on identifying the more esoteric varieties. In order to provide additional information on the relative scarcity of these varieties, a survey was conducted of LSCC member holdings during the Fall of 1989. In choosing the varieties to be surveyed it was felt that all date and mintmark size varieties should be included as well as all hub varieties. Additional varieties were chosen based upon their perceived popularity among LSCC members or upon their frequency of appearance on fixed price lists. LSCC members are encouraged to conduct further surveys on varieties not included that they believe are important.

The Results

When evaluating the results, one should take into consideration survey biases similar to those listed in Issue #41 of the *Journal* for the half dime survey. The results should not be considered a random sampling of Liberty Seated dimes by variety. Collector interest played a major role. For example, mintmark size variations, most of which are easily identifiable, were quite popular. On the other hand, the seemingly minor hubbing differences for the years 1876 to 1878 have not yet been as enthusiastically collected. Several respondents listed nice holdings of early New Orleans mintmark varieties but left their 1876 to 1878 hub varieties unattributed. For this reason, the relative scarcity of this latter group may have been somewhat exaggerated. Additionally, newer, less well-known varieties, probably show biased low listings due to their limited exposure. For example, readers should not assume, based on the reported examples, that the more recently discovered 1873-S Large S variety is comparable in rarity to the 1841-O Large O closed bud dime. This popular New Orleans variety has been sought by specialists for many years with very limited success.

Of the 62 respondents to the variety survey, 21 contained over half of the listed varieties. Five of these collections were missing 11 or fewer varieties, the controversial 1851-O Small O and 1884-S Medium S being excluded. Varieties missing from two or more of these 5 most advanced collections are:

1841-O Small O closed bud	missing from 3
1841-O Large O closed bud	missing from 3
1873-S Large S	missing from 2
1891-O over horizontal O	missing from 4

Additionally, none of the above four varieties were represented in more than two of the remaining 16 advanced collections.

Variety Survey Results, Liberty Seated Dimes by Frequency and Grade

Date	Variety	Total	G 4-7	VG 8-11	F 12-19	VF 20-29	VF 30-39	XF 40-49	AU 50-59	MS 60	MS 63	MS 65	PF 60+
1837	Small Date	37	11	11	6	1	1	4	2	0	0	1	0
	Large Date	33	5	10	4	2	3	5	1	0	1	0	2
1839-O	Small O	20	3	5	2	4	1	3	1	1	0	0	0
	Large O	24	5	6	1	3	1	5	1	1	1	0	0
	Recut O	16	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
	Shattered Rev.	36	10	7	5	5	3	5	1	0	0	0	0
	Huge O	7	1	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
1840-O	Large O	19	7	3	2	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
	Medium O	17	2	5	4	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0
	Small O	25	5	7	2	4	2	3	1	0	0	1	0
1841-O	Medium O	29	5	3	3	10	1	3	4	0	0	0	0
	Small O	51	7	1	12	8	6	12	2	1	1	1	0
	Lg O-Clsd Bud	5	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Sm O-Clsd Bud	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1842-O	Medium O	53	3	7	14	8	7	8	5	0	0	1	0
	Small O	17	2	3	3	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
1843	Medium Date	13	1	0	0	1	3	5	1	0	1	0	1
	Double Date	25	2	1	4	2	3	7	5	0	0	1	0
	Remaining	32	1	8	6	6	4	4	2	1	0	0	0
1845	Double Date	24	0	1	3	4	2	5	8	0	0	1	0
	Remaining	44	5	5	9	4	4	7	4	3	1	1	1
1847	Date Overlaps	29	3	4	7	3	5	2	2	2	1	0	0
	Remaining	29	1	5	11	5	2	3	0	2	0	0	0
1849-O	Large O	36	7	10	7	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Small O	30	3	3	6	7	4	3	2	2	0	0	0
	Recut 184	12	0	0	4	1	2	3	2	0	0	0	0
1850-O	Large O	22	2	5	4	5	2	3	0	0	0	1	0
	Medium O	17	0	3	6	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
	Small O	23	8	2	5	3	3	0	1	0	1	0	0
1851	Repunched 51	14	1	0	4	2	1	3	2	1	0	0	0
	Remaining	33	2	4	5	7	6	8	0	0	0	1	0
1851-O	Large O	34	1	7	10	3	6	2	3	1	1	0	0
	Small O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1852	Recut Date	12	1	0	2	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
	Remaining	36	4	1	7	10	4	6	2	0	0	1	1
1856-O	Large O	21	5	0	7	2	0	5	1	1	0	0	0
	56 Recut Up	23	1	4	6	5	1	1	4	0	0	1	0
	56 Recut Down	24	7	2	5	3	4	2	1	0	0	0	0
	Medium O	16	2	1	5	2	2	3	0	1	0	0	0

Date	Variety	Total	G 4-7	VG 8-11	F 12-19	VF 20-29	VF 30-39	XF 40-49	AU 50-59	MS 60	MS 63	MS 65	PF 60+
1857-O	Large O	48	0	3	9	9	10	11	4	0	1	1	0
	Medium O	21	5	0	5	5	1	4	0	0	1	0	0
1859-O	Large O	38	3	6	8	3	3	8	6	0	1	0	0
	Medium O	27	1	5	8	2	1	8	1	0	0	1	0
1861	Type I Shield	21	1	0	5	2	3	7	2	0	1	0	0
	Type II Shield	25	0	1	2	3	7	7	3	0	1	0	1
1873-S	Large S	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Small Thin S	19	4	4	4	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	0
1874-S	Small Thin S	12	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
	Micro S	13	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
1875-S	Large S IW	30	1	3	7	6	2	3	6	1	1	0	0
	Small S	21	0	3	2	5	0	8	2	0	1	0	0
	Micro S	16	0	0	2	3	5	2	3	1	0	0	0
1876	Type I Rev.	44	0	1	9	8	7	8	8	1	0	1	1
	Type II Rev.	21	0	2	7	4	2	4	1	0	1	0	0
1876-CC	Type I Rev.	74	6	10	15	15	7	12	5	1	2	1	0
	Doubled Obv.	31	8	5	5	0	3	4	2	2	1	1	0
	Type II Rev.	10	0	2	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	0
1876-S	Type I Rev.	36	1	0	9	4	6	11	2	1	0	2	0
	Type II Rev.	10	0	0	2	1	4	1	1	0	0	1	0
1877	Type I Rev.	16	0	3	3	4	3	2	0	0	1	0	0
	Type II Rev.	37	2	2	9	5	2	12	2	1	0	1	1
1877-CC	Type I Rev.	29	1	6	5	4	3	4	2	0	2	2	0
	Type II Rev.	49	3	2	5	11	6	12	5	1	1	3	0
1878	Type I Rev.	9	1	0	1	0	3	1	2	0	1	0	0
	Type II Rev.	26	1	1	6	6	5	1	3	0	0	1	2
1878-CC	Type I Rev.	12	2	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
	Type II Rev.	19	1	1	0	4	2	4	5	1	0	1	0
1884-S	Medium S	14	3	0	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	0
	Small S	19	1	4	1	3	2	5	2	0	1	0	0
1887-S	Med/Sm S	17	0	0	2	4	1	6	4	0	0	0	0
	Remaining	39	2	0	6	7	9	11	1	1	1	1	0
1889-S	Medium S	22	1	5	6	2	1	4	2	0	1	0	0
	Small S	26	0	2	7	4	4	3	4	0	0	2	0
1890-S	Medium S	26	1	0	6	5	3	6	3	0	1	1	0
	Small S	21	2	2	7	2	3	2	2	0	1	0	0
	Med/Sm S	12	1	0	5	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
1891	Double Date	17	0	0	1	3	2	6	3	1	0	1	0
	Remaining	54	2	7	13	6	5	12	5	1	0	2	1
1891-O	Horizontal O	5	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Remaining	72	3	3	21	11	10	16	5	0	1	2	0
1891-S	Medium S	27	2	3	4	3	5	2	7	0	0	1	0
	Small S	29	1	3	6	4	5	7	2	0	1	0	0
	Med/Sm S	14	1	1	3	0	0	4	3	0	1	1	0

Observations and comments by date are as follows:

Date	Comments
1837	Both date size varieties are available in a wide selection of grades.
1839-O	This date presents several interesting varieties. The A-6 shattered reverse suffers from its own popularity. Several respondents reported small hoards of this variety. This survey does not indicate how many were of the more desirable late die states. The A-7 Huge O variety appears to be a difficult variety to locate and it is often misattributed by dealers.
1840-O	The three mintmark sizes appeared in a relative frequency that had been expected. All three had similar low mean grades.
1841-O	The perceived rarity of both closed bud varieties was supported by the survey. The Small O closed bud variety is more difficult to identify than the Large O but both low listings were expected.
1842-O	The rarity of the Small O in grades above VF had been suspected by specialists for some time.
1843	The 1843 medium date represents a minor date placement variety. This variety is not considered significant by the authors and was included in error. Collectors may wish to group this variety's listing with the normal date. The repunched date variety can be obtained with a bit of searching.
1845	The repunched date variety of this year can be obtained with a bit of searching.
1847	The date overlaps base variety is not a rarity among 1847 dimes.
1849-O	All three listed varieties are available, although locating examples above VF will present a challenge, especially for the Large O.
1850-O	None of the individual mintmark sizes look to be significantly rarer than the other two. However, locating each in higher grades can be quite difficult.
1851-O	The Small O has been listed in reference materials. However, this survey failed to confirm its existence.
1856-O	The Medium O looks to be much scarcer than the cumulative Large O varieties. Both recut date varieties are available.
1857-O	The Medium O is not the rarity once believed except perhaps in higher grades.
1873-S	The Ahwash unlisted Large S is obviously scarcer than the Small thin s variety. Despite its low listing, the authors have found this variety to be available with a modest amount of searching.
1874-S	The Small thin S is also unlisted in the Ahwash encyclopedia. It, however, does not look to be noticeably scarcer than the Micro S. Both varieties are scarce due to the difficulty in obtaining this date in general.
1876-CC	Only the 1876-CC Type II reverse variety has received publicity as a rarity among the hub varieties in this era. The 1876-CC doubled die obverse suffers from popularity hoarding.
1876-S	The 1876-S Type II reverse variety looks to be scarcer than the Type I reverse for this date.
1878	The 1878 Type I reverse variety looks to be scarcer than the Type II reverse for this date.

1884-S The Medium S for this date remains a mystery. Do any of the 14 Medium S dimes listed in this survey actually have a mintmark matching the style and size as shown on page 342 of the Ahwash encyclopedia? The photo in this reference is actually a misplaced 1886-S reverse photo. This can be verified by comparing the photo and mintmark description with those on page 352. The photos are identical even though the mintmark placement descriptions differ. The authors have never seen an 1884-S Medium S dime which matches the Ahwash photograph on page 342.

1890-S The higher than expected listing of Small S examples was perhaps the biggest surprise of this survey. The authors have found this variety to be quite difficult to locate.

1891-O The O over horizontal O appears to be rare. This is another variety which is often misattributed by dealers.

Conclusion

It is believed that the Ahwash encyclopedia and other outstanding references have contributed significantly to this survey's accuracy, however some errors undoubtedly exist. Additionally, some varieties, such as the 1873-S Large S as well as several hub varieties within the 1876 to 1878 groups, will require much additional study to determine their true rarities.

The authors would like to thank all of those who responded to this survey. It is hoped that the membership will find the results to be both interesting and useful.

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1843	AU-50, ANACS	$165
1854-O	EF-40, ANACS	130
1854-O	EF-40	100
1855	VF-20	65
1855-O	EF-40, ANACS	125

HALVES *continued*

1857	EF-40, Hallmark	$110
1857	VF-35	45
1859	AU-50, multi-toned	200
1862-S	VF-20, weak strike	45
1863-S	EF-45, PCGS	100
1875-CC	VF-30	75

TRADE DOLLARS

1873-S	AU-55	$430
1874-S	VF-20, ex-Norweb Sale	150
1875-S	EF-45, ex-Norweb Sale	185

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Rotated Reverses on Liberty Seated Dollars

by

Lawrence N. Rogak

Several issues back a letter appeared in the *Journal* noting the existence of an 1861 dollar with a rotated reverse and this prompted me to do some research on the incidence of this phenomenon.

In the 1800s the mint had not yet adopted the practice of grinding a flat spot on the side of the dies so as to prevent rotation. A set of two dies, of course, is used to strike coins. The lower die, usually the obverse, is installed so that it moves up and down in the collar. The upper die, usually the reverse, is held in place with three set screws. Because the reverse die was customarily used as the upper die, it was more likely to rotate than the obverse die, which sat in the collar below. The force used to pound the upper die against the lower die sometimes caused the set screws of the upper die to loosen, permitting the die to rotate.

In the course of my research, I spoke with Marilyn Van Allen, editor of the *Collector's Clearinghouse* feature in *Coin World*. I was hoping to locate the manufacturer of the Rota-Die device used in that column. Unfortunately, the Rota-Die is no longer being manufactured, and extant examples are scarce.

John McCloskey devised a degree scale, which, when placed over the photographs of my rotated reverse dollars, indicates the degree of rotation. The photographs included a mark to show where the 12:00 position of the obverse lay, so as to indicate where the 0° position of the scale should be placed. The coins described hereunder are depicted with this article using McCloskey's scale to show the degree of rotation.

For my research sample, I examined 154 Seated dollars of various grades. Although nearly 20% of these had rotations under 15°, Marilyn Van Allen expressed the opinion that only rotations of 15° or more are considered significant. Therefore, I am reporting only those coins which meet this criterion.

The 154 Seated dollars I examined comprised 42 different dates and mints, lacking only the 1851, 1852, 1870-S, and 1873-CC. Common dates were not over represented; the maximum number of any one date examined was six. On the other hand, scarce dates were heavily represented with 5 examples from such dates as 1844, 1859-S, and 1866. A complete list of the dates in the sample is appended hereto.

The Findings

It came as a surprise for me to find that out of 154 coins, only 5 had rotations of 15° or more. These coins were of the following dates: two examples of 1849 and one each of 1859-S, 1869, and 1870-CC. These five pieces constitute about 3.3% of the total number examined.

Two 1849 dollars were found with the exact same rotation, 15°, so I surmise they came from the same die pair. One coin grades AU58/MS61, the other is F/VF. A photo of the former appears with this article.

An 1859-S in Fine, with initials engraved above the eagle's head, had a rotation of about 20°. This was one of five 1859-S dollars in the sample. None of the others displayed the slightest degree of rotation. With a mintage of 20,000 and a survival rate of about 2%, any kind of variety is significant. As only one out of five 1859-S dollars examined displayed a rotated reverse, I must conclude at this time that an 1859-S dollar with a rotated reverse is a very rare coin.

One 1869 dollar grading VF was found with a 15° rotation. A total of five coins of this date were in the sample; none of the others had a significant degree of rotation.

Rotated Reverse Dollars

1849 Dollar
Reverse Rotated
15° Counterclockwise

1859-S Dollar
Reverse Rotated
20° Counterclockwise

1869 Dollar
Reverse Rotated
15° Counterclockwise

1870-CC Dollar
Reverse Rotated
25° Clockwise

Finally, an 1870-CC dollar grading VF, but with a small hole beneath the 7 in the date, displayed the greatest rotation in the sample: about 25°. Also setting this coin apart from the others is the fact that its rotation is *clockwise,* while all the others were rotated *counterclockwise.* I am not familiar enough with the physics involved in the effect of vibration on the rotation of a loose object to draw any definite conclusion as to why this coin's reverse die rotated in a different direction. However, logic compels two possible conclusions: either this reverse die fortuitously rotated in the opposite direction from the other examples, or this die rotated in the same counterclockwise direction as the others, but made almost a complete circle, that is, it rotated 335° counterclockwise. If this is so, then there is a chance that other coins may exist with different rotations of intermediate degree, including a full medal turn of 180° rotation. Of course, there is also the possibility that this die was *installed* with a 25° clockwise rotation by a careless mint employee.

Of the five 1870-CC dollars in my sample, the coin depicted in the accompanying photograph and two others had rotated reverses; the other coins had a 12° *clockwise* rotation. We may infer that other examples may exist with differing degrees of rotation.

Conclusions

From these findings, I draw several inferences from which I make tentative conclusions, subject to further research. These conclusions are:

1. Liberty Seated dollars with a reverse rotation of 15° or more are very scarce; I estimate them to comprise less than 5% of all extant examples.
2. The distribution of rotated reverses is very uneven among the different date and mint combinations. They may be more prevalent among the lower mintage issues than the high mintage issues. The common dates may not have rotated examples extant which are proportional to their higher mintage.

Finally, I would comment that in several years of carefully reviewing all ads for Seated dollars in *Coin World, Numismatic News,* and dealer mailings, I cannot recall more than one or two occasions when a Seated dollar was advertised as having a rotated reverse, thus further bolstering the conclusion that these coins are very rare.

Anyone having a Seated dollar with significant rotation, or anyone wishing to correspond about Seated dollars in general, is invited to write to me. I can be contacted as follows: Lawrence N. Rogak, P.O. Box 547, Long Beach, NY 11561.

Addendum: List of Dates and Mints Examined for this Survey

Date	Quantity	Date	Quantity	Date	Quantity	Date	Quantity
1840	3	1849	5	1859-O	4	1867	5
1841	4	1850	3	1859-S	5	1868	4
1842	5	1850-O	4	1860	2	1869	5
1843	4	1853	3	1860-O	4	1870	3
1844	5	1854	1	1861	2	1870-CC	5
1845	4	1855	1	1862	4	1871	6
1846	5	1856	1	1863	3	1871-CC	1
1846-O	4	1857	2	1864	6	1872	6
1847	4	1858	1	1865	5	1872-CC	2
1848	4	1859	4	1866	5	1872-S	3
						1873	5

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HALF DOLLARS

1840	Small Letters, NGC AU-58, nice strike, rose and blue toning	$495
1840	Reverse of 1838, NGC AU-50, sharp strike, golden, very scarce	1100
1844-O	Doubled Date. XF-40. Ex-Stacks' Robison Sale, 1982, light blue peripheral toning	3650
1845-O	ND, ANACS slab AU-50, toned, a beautiful coin	495
1846	6 over Horizontal 6, PCGS MS-62, incredible strike, the only one graded by PCGS	4750
1848-O	PCGS AU-55	425
1856-S	PCGS AU-50, toned, very pretty and rare this nice	950
1870-CC	ANACS slab F-12, weak E due to strike	1100
1877-CC	PCGS MS-61, incredible strike, recut 77 and mintmark	895

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Half Dollar Rarities

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1858-S	Medium S. AU-50. Sharp strike and dark iridescent toning. A few tiny rim nicks and a larger one on the reverse	$275
1859-S	Large S. AU-50. Sharp strike. Silver toning conceals light hairlines. A couple of pin marks and rim nicks	250
1860-S	Medium S. AU-55. Lightly toned over glossy surfaces	205
1861-S	Large S. AU-55. Sharp strike. Dark olive toning. Light scratch and rim nick hidden In toning	225
1862-S	Medium S. EF-40. Light gray. A couple of pin scratches	70
1862-S	Small S. EF-40. Light gray with some darker patches. Obverse rim nick. Scarcer variety	80
1863-S	EF-45. LIghtly toned and very appealing. One shallow chopmark in obverse field	60
1864-S	Large S. AU-58. One bold chopmark in obverse field, otherwise mint state	195
1865-S	Small S. AU-50. Dipped long ago but mark free and nice	190
1866-S	No Motto. EF-40. Obverse rim cuts are deep but well hidden under original slate gray toning. Ditto for a couple of reverse scratches. Better than it sounds	275
1872-S	Medium-Small S. AU-50. Golden toning over lustrous surfaces	325
1872-S	Medium-Small S. EF-45. This one is medium gray and perfect for the grade	225
1874-S	Small S. EF-45. Medium gray toning over smooth surfaces. A beautiful coin	350
1875-S	Medium-Small S. AU-55. Gold toning over lustrous surfaces. Beautiful example of a rare variety	360
1875-S	Very Small S. AU-55. Dipped once but now retoning	140
1875-S	Very Small S. AU-50. Medium gray and original	115
1876-S	Type 1. Very Small S. EF-40. Medium gray	65
1877-S	EF-45. Repunched S. Rare, Breen #5010. Olive and iridescent toning. Perfect example of major rarity	225
1877-S	Type 2. Very Small S. AU-50. Dark gray toning	145

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A Three Year Coin World Survey of Liberty Seated Dimes

by

R.E. Jones

In Table 1, I have listed all of the Liberty Seated dimes that were offered for sale in *Coin World* for the years 1984, 1986, and 1987. This table shows a total of 30,386 listings. This is not the actual number of coins offered for sale since some of the pieces were advertised several times before they were sold. The listing contains both fixed price and mail bid sales. The listing also contains both business strikes and proof specimens for the Philadelphia dates. No dimes below the grade of good were included and when a split grade was used in the advertising, I recorded the lower grade.

I collected the data for this survey because I had suspected for some time that some of the higher mintage dates might be scarcer than would be expected. The results of the survey seem to bear this out. With more than 30,000 listings one can get a pretty good idea of the relative scarcity of a particular date relative to the others in the series.

Table 2 provides a listing in rank order of the twenty most infrequently appearing dates in the survey. It is no surprise that the 1874-CC dime tops this list with only 25 total appearances. This date has long been recognized as the key rarity in the dime series. The rare 1885-S dime is second on the list followed by a number of Civil War era dates from the Philadelphia and San Francisco mints. Of note is the appearance of the 1876-S dime in seventh place with a total of only 64 listings for the three year period.

Table 3 provides a listing in rank order of the ten most infrequently appearing dates in grades of VF or higher. The 1874-CC dime also tops this list with only one listing of VF or higher, this specimen being graded MS-63. Second on this list is the 1871-CC dime with a total of only nine listings. This date is not among the top ten overall because of a number of low grade appearances but it is still infrequently available in the upper circulated grades. The 1885-S dime ranks third with only 20 appearances in grades of VF or higher. This list is dominated by branch mint issues which received more circulation in the old west over one hundred years ago.

Table 4 provides the listing for proof issues from the Philadelphia mint for the same three year period. These proof listings are included in the regular survey listings of Table 1 but are not distinguished from business strikes in that table. No specimens identified as proof below the grade of MS-60 were included in this proof table. Of particular interest in this table is the rarity of the early proof issues as well as the unusually high number of listings for the low mintage 1879 date.

I hope this survey provides some useful availability information for the collector of Liberty Seated dimes.

Table 1
Liberty Seated Dime *Coin World* Survey

Date	Total	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS 60	MS 63	MS 65	MS 67
1837	610	99	143	39	62	141	79	8	26	13	-
1838-O	582	224	150	56	62	55	18	14	2	1	-
1838	508	87	58	43	89	137	70	14	9	1	-
1839	186	12	21	21	19	55	34	12	6	6	-
1839-O	165	56	28	12	22	19	10	18	-	-	-
1840 Drap	159	31	43	42	28	14	1	-	-	-	-
1840 N D	251	12	43	32	32	29	63	28	9	3	-
1840-O	165	35	60	10	26	31	3	-	-	-	-

Date	Total	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS 60	MS 63	MS 65	MS 67
1841	187	33	18	26	37	44	6	23	-	-	-
1841-O	503	140	83	74	91	77	36	-	2	-	-
1842	266	59	34	35	65	61	10	1	-	1	-
1842-O	333	64	40	91	65	49	23	1	-	-	-
1843	231	25	39	54	43	27	28	15	-	-	-
1843-O	193	27	30	40	61	18	17	-	-	-	-
1844	382	57	56	101	122	29	17	-	-	-	-
1845	237	27	22	37	68	34	41	3	4	1	-
1845-O	285	52	55	34	90	49	5	-	-	-	-
1846	225	30	33	83	62	17	-	-	-	-	-
1847	218	33	35	49	50	41	9	1	-	-	-
1848	222	32	27	55	73	26	1	3	5	-	-
1849	210	45	24	61	33	13	6	3	4	-	-
1849-O	551	20	41	87	217	168	18	-	-	-	-
1850	361	30	23	42	80	102	33	31	20	-	-
1850-O	132	29	12	33	17	39	-	-	-	2	-
1851	145	28	13	24	37	23	7	12	-	-	1
1851-O	168	12	16	32	39	56	12	1	-	-	-
1852	236	19	18	20	78	47	28	16	7	-	3
1852-O	203	5	25	20	91	37	24	-	1	-	-
1853 No Arr	223	38	42	21	75	34	3	4	-	1	5
1853 Arrows	1038	58	59	120	284	300	122	43	34	12	6
1853-O	78	7	8	10	27	21	5	-	-	-	-
1854	472	28	41	65	108	156	45	13	14	2	-
1854-O	96	14	2	12	48	6	10	-	2	2	-
1855	182	15	7	33	44	63	15	2	2	1	-
1856	617	51	43	146	190	130	23	28	6	-	-
1856-O	163	23	13	25	62	38	2	-	-	-	-
1856-S	98	1	19	23	35	20	-	-	-	-	-
1857	626	38	29	80	179	215	45	29	7	-	4
1857-O	251	25	34	28	57	64	29	5	8	1	-
1858	287	21	20	32	65	80	24	36	9	-	-
1858-O	153	14	5	8	65	38	22	1	-	-	-
1858-S	82	14	3	18	15	32	-	-	-	-	-
1859	125	7	6	15	31	21	20	3	12	9	1
1859-O	243	42	16	31	60	43	31	10	8	1	1
1859-S	187	31	29	43	66	8	7	3	-	-	-
1860-S	173	9	17	17	52	47	27	-	3	1	-
1860	106	2	7	9	9	32	17	18	11	1	-
1860-O	98	3	43	15	31	6	-	-	-	-	-
1861	164	6	5	28	25	33	24	24	18	1	-
1861-S	47	2	5	4	25	4	7	-	-	-	-
1862	145	1	9	11	21	41	14	17	20	11	-
1862-S	49	2	1	10	15	21	-	-	-	-	-
1863	71	-	6	15	-	20	-	10	14	6	-
1863-S	122	5	8	17	46	31	2	12	1	-	-
1864	169	4	15	46	13	9	22	31	26	3	-
1864-S	187	3	9	53	77	33	12	-	-	-	-
1865	113	8	19	20	30	-	12	3	21	-	-
1865-S	108	3	3	15	58	18	1	-	10	-	-
1866	135	2	17	22	28	31	2	14	15	4	-

Date	Total	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS 60	MS 63	MS 65	MS 67
1866-S	51	9	4	3	7	27	1	-	-	-	-
1867	49	-	1	-	4	-	11	6	23	4	-
1867-S	67	-	8	13	12	12	-	-	-	22	-
1868	150	4	15	15	31	49	-	13	12	7	4
1868-S	110	13	4	5	19	57	11	1	-	-	-
1869	138	7	5	19	23	32	17	5	19	11	-
1869-S	264	2	9	17	76	118	16	8	14	3	1
1870	97	-	3	6	19	28	11	11	10	9	-
1870-S	88	-	5	25	37	9	10	-	2	-	-
1871	79	1	3	7	17	13	4	17	10	7	-
1871-CC	87	22	34	22	4	5	-	-	-	-	-
1871-S	120	2	-	8	53	27	14	16	-	-	-
1872	215	6	12	17	71	78	16	4	11	-	-
1872-CC	101	14	6	20	52	8	-	1	-	-	-
1872-S	136	14	14	14	32	38	5	8	11	-	-
1873 N A	396	15	22	61	165	92	17	15	5	4	-
1873 Arrows	736	31	88	124	202	195	69	10	11	6	-
1873-CC	109	17	28	16	34	14	-	-	-	-	-
1873-S	93	4	14	18	22	25	7	1	2	-	-
1874	1052	168	98	126	244	197	146	44	24	5	-
1874-CC	25	12	1	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1874-S	107	2	-	12	32	31	23	-	-	6	1
1875	552	24	33	36	130	139	81	73	24	12	-
1875-CC	342	26	24	39	52	82	67	35	9	2	6
1875-S	224	23	11	23	37	54	58	11	6	1	-
1876	590	22	20	53	107	161	101	79	27	17	3
1876-CC	365	50	33	37	67	57	69	39	9	4	-
1876-S	64	9	8	9	7	13	8	9	-	1	-
1877	259	19	24	44	73	51	24	19	-	5	-
1877-CC	358	28	30	46	103	55	57	27	8	4	-
1877-S	127	9	9	17	17	26	32	12	4	1	-
1878	133	6	7	12	20	21	42	8	15	2	-
1878-CC	146	16	16	18	34	27	31	1	2	1	-
1879	241	3	4	11	22	14	13	60	80	33	1
1880	302	2	33	22	35	72	34	23	44	30	7
1881	157	1	11	9	19	38	15	27	30	4	3
1882	340	4	9	40	50	56	41	49	59	27	5
1883	566	16	21	40	135	112	142	57	28	13	2
1884	248	7	15	28	48	59	28	29	18	16	-
1884-S	182	10	6	23	89	17	24	7	5	-	1
1885	185	8	15	20	24	33	16	27	25	13	4
1885-S	35	1	13	1	14	1	4	1	-	-	-
1886	559	17	45	49	105	141	108	47	35	12	-
1886-S	78	3	2	4	35	13	6	-	14	-	1
1887	752	14	39	86	87	232	151	59	27	11	-
1887-S	409	5	19	32	104	140	82	13	13	1	-
1888	479	22	20	46	101	141	60	36	45	8	-
1888-S	166	19	14	13	32	43	29	9	7	-	-
1889	553	33	35	69	146	123	102	27	6	9	3
1889-S	372	18	39	57	69	126	43	17	1	2	-
1890	764	17	44	77	170	193	131	66	49	17	-
1890-S	129	3	11	21	40	20	13	19	1	1	-
1891	1212	21	30	127	300	328	181	147	70	8	-
1891-O	471	13	39	53	99	148	104	9	5	1	-
1891-S	234	21	4	24	42	48	63	21	8	3	-

Table 2
The Twenty Most Infrequently Appearing Dates in Survey by Grade

Rank	Date	Total	G-VG	F-VF	XF-AU	MS
1	1874-CC	25	13	11	-	1
2	1885-S	35	14	15	5	1
3	1861-S	47	7	29	11	-
4	1862-S	49	3	25	21	-
5	1867	49	1	4	11	33
6	1866-S	51	13	10	28	-
7	1876-S	64	17	16	21	10
8	1867-S	67	8	25	12	22
9	1863	71	6	15	20	30
10	1853-O	78	15	37	26	-
11	1886-S	78	5	39	19	15
12	1871	79	4	24	17	34
13	1858-S	82	17	33	32	-
14	1871-CC	87	56	26	5	-
15	1870-S	88	5	62	19	2
16	1873-S	93	18	40	32	3
17	1854-O	96	16	60	16	4
18	1870	97	3	25	39	30
19	1856-S	98	20	58	20	-
20	1860-O	98	46	46	6	-

Table 3
The Ten Most Infrequently Appearing Dates in Grades of VF or Higher

Rank	Date	Total	VF	XF	AU	MS
1	1874-CC	1	-	-	-	1
2	1871-CC	9	4	5	-	-
3	1885-S	20	14	1	4	1
4	1866-S	35	7	27	1	-
5	1861-S	36	25	4	7	-
6	1862-S	36	15	21	-	-
7	1860-O	37	31	6	-	-
8	1876-S	38	7	13	8	10
9	1840 Drap	43	28	14	1	-
10	1867-S	46	12	12	-	22

Table 4
Proof Liberty Seated Dime Survey

Date	Total	MS-60	MS-63	MS-65	MS-67
1856	3	-	3	-	-
1857	1	-	1	-	-
1858	4	-	4	-	-
1859	13	-	7	6	-
1860	4	2	1	1	-
1861	4	-	3	1	-
1862	26	10	6	10	-
1863	25	7	12	6	-
1864	29	14	12	3	-
1865	14	-	14	-	-
1866	22	3	15	4	-
1867	28	5	20	3	-
1868	24	5	10	5	4
1869	31	5	16	10	-
1870	20	5	6	9	-
1871	31	15	9	7	-
1872	12	2	10	-	-
1873 No Arr	7	2	1	4	-
1873 Arrows	17	2	11	4	-

Date	Total	MS-60	MS-63	MS-65	MS-67
1874	18	2	14	2	-
1875	17	1	9	7	-
1876	23	11	10	2	-
1877	8	3	-	5	-
1878	18	6	10	2	-
1879	118	32	61	24	1
1880	57	22	18	14	3
1881	29	11	18	-	-
1882	22	2	20	-	-
1883	25	8	10	5	2
1884	15	2	6	7	-
1885	33	3	15	11	4
1886	13	3	8	2	-
1887	15	5	6	4	-
1888	16	7	7	2	-
1889	8	2	2	4	-
1890	22	3	19	-	-
1891	17	9	7	1	-

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How Many 1858 Liberty Seated Dollars were really Minted?

by
Weimar W. White

When 1858 proof Liberty Seated dollars are advertised for sale, a mintage estimate of 80 pieces is frequently given. Breen[1] claims this estimate is from the Chapman brothers and that it came from one of their Mint contacts, believed to be Patterson DuBois, possibly as early as 1876. However, some contemporary numismatists have observed that 1858 dollars, impaired or otherwise, exist in numbers much larger than what would be expected from a mintage of just 80 proof examples.

Bruce Amspacher[2] made the following statements concerning this issue: "The mintage is reportedly 80 pieces, although either this figure is incorrect or restrikes were made. A number of 1858's have a die defect on the reverse just to the left of the eagle's beak. It is frequently argued that this is diagnostic of restrikes and that originals do not have them." In my book *The Liberty Seated Dollar 1840-1873,* this die defect is pictured along with the normal reverse so that the reader can see what Bruce is talking about.

Gerald Bauman[3] made these relevant comments: "According to all current guide books, the 1858 Liberty Seated Dollar has an original mintage of 80 proofs. In my opinion, based on the appearance of coins in auction and private sale, 200 is more realistic."

In this article, the writer will present statistical evidence which supports the observations made by Bruce and Gerald. The approach used was to gather the auction appearances for seven proof dates of Liberty Seated dollars over 15 years and compare, by proportion, each mintage to the appearances of the 1858 dollar during the same period. With this technique, one should be able to obtain the approximate mintage for the 1858 dollar. It is assumed that the relative survival rates are about the same for all the proofs studied and indeed the figures seem to bear this out.

Table 1 shows the proof dates studied with their known mintages and their auction appearances in 15 years. In the table, the number of appearances for each date is used to estimate the 1858 dollar mintage. The following proportion is given as an example of the calculation for the 1867 dollar.

$$\frac{625}{144} = \frac{X}{87}$$

Therefore, solving for X we get 378 as the estimated mintage for the 1858 dollar. Thus, if the total mintage for the 1858 dollar is indeed in the neighborhood of 382 pieces, this is nearly five times the popular notion that only 80 specimens were coined. But even with a more realistic mintage figure of between 318 and 478 pieces, the 1858 dollar is still a very scarce coin. The writer estimates that only about 80 to 94 specimens are presently in the hands of collectors.

Table II shows the number of calculated appearances expected for the 1858 dollar assuming a mintage of 80 pieces. We can see that over the 15 year period of auction results one would expect about 18 appearances for this date based on the survival rates for the other seven proof dates. This is a long way from the 87 specimens that actually did appear and gives further evidence that the estimated mintage of 80 pieces is incorrect for the 1858 dollar.

Perhaps the time has come for the coin guide books to reassess the mintage estimates for the 1858 silver dollar.

[1] *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins,* F.C.I. Press, Inc.; Doubleday, NY, 1988.

[2] Bruce Amspacher, *Liberty Seated Dollars,* article appearing in the *Coin Dealer Newsletter,* Monthly Summary July and August, 1982.

[3] Les and Sue Fox, *Fight Inflation with Silver Dollars,* Carson City Publications, Inc., 1981. An article on Early U.S. Silver Dollars as an Investment by Gerald Bauman appeared in this book.

[4] *Rome's Prices Realized,* 1972-1978 Silver Ed. Vol. III, published by Rome Reports Inc., NY, NY, 1979.

[5] Krause Publication Series on *Auction Prices Realized* NY, NY.

Table 1

Appearances of Proof Liberty Seated Dollars from (1972-1978)[4] and (1981-1988)[5] Used to Calculate the Approximate Mintage for the 1858 Dollar

Date	Proof Mintage	Appearances	Calculated Mintage for 1858 Dollar
1858	x	87	-
1863	460	126	318
1864	470	124	330
1865	500	109	399
1866	725	132	478
1867	625	144	378
1868	600	137	381
1869	600	134	390
		Average	382

Table II
Calculated Auction Appearances in 15 Years for the 1858 Dollar Assuming a Mintage of 80 Pieces

Date	Proof Mintage	Appearances	Calculated Appearances for 1858 Dollar
1858	80	x	-
1863	460	126	22
1864	470	124	21
1865	500	109	17
1866	725	132	15
1867	625	144	18
1868	600	137	18
1869	600	134	18
		Average	18

LIBERTY SEATED SPECIALS
from CHARLES W. WOODRUFF

HALF DIMES

1839-O	VG-8, old album toning	$ 10
1840	XF-40, with drapery, gray and gold	160
1840-O	XF-40, no drapery, minor rim tick	60
1840-O	XF-40, with drapery, blue and gold	350
1842-O	VG-10, excellent for grade	40
1843	XF-40, shattered reverse, sharp original	85
1844-O	F-12, a couple of tiny rim marks	145
1846	G-6, nice original	165
1846	VF-20, old cleaning. Scarce in this grade	450
1848	XF-40, sharp dark original	48
1849-O	VF-25, problem free	175
1850	XF-40, iridescent blue	48
1850-O	AU-50, old cleaning, clashed dies	210
1853	G-5, no arrows, old cleaning	24
1853	F-12, no arrows, cleaned but nice	48
1853-O	G-4, no arrows, old cleaning	135
1855-O	XF-40, typical soft strike, toned	95
1858-O	AU-50, beautiful blue, gold and gray	125
1859-O	XF-40, a couple of short reverse marks	75
1863	G-5, lightly toned original, nice	130
1863	AU-55, attractive business strike	495
1864-S	G5/F12, old cleaning	30
1865-S	XF-45, lightly cleaned, sharp	95
1866-S	AU-50, pearl gray, pristine surfaces	275
1868	AU-50, small obverse field mark, lustrous	285
1868-S	AU-55, sharp strike, bright	125
1870	XF-45, nice original	40
1871-S	VF20/35, old cleaning	38
1872-S	AU-58, mintmark below wreath, nice slider	120

QUARTERS

1842-O	F-15, Large Date, nice original	$ 30
1856	VF-20, nice for grade	21
1858-S	VG-8, original, a couple of light marks	60
1878-CC	VF-35, great golden toning	75

HALF DOLLARS

1839	VG-10, drapery, old cleaning	$ 32
1840-O	VF-30, great toning, problem free	85
1847-O	VG-10, old cleaning but nice	20
1853-O	XF-40, arrows & rays, dipped, sharp	195
1855	F-12, tiny rim tick, old cleaning	35
1859-O	XF-40, old cleaning but sharp	65
1861	XF-40, old cleaning but sharp	70
1861-O	XF-40, super, dark original toning	85

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The Rare 1872-S Quarter

by

Bill Cregan

Most specialists would agree that the 1872-S quarter is one of the scarcest dates in the Liberty Seated quarter series. This date may not be the hardest in the series to find in the upper circulated grades, but it is one of the most difficult to locate as a date, due to its infrequent appearance on the collector market. Some specialists even believe that the 1872-S quarter is as difficult to obtain as some of the rarest date Carson City quarters.

Strangely enough, the 1872-S quarter has a recorded mintage of 83,000 pieces, not a low mintage compared to many other dates in the Liberty Seated quarter series. Older collectors may remember that this figure was even adjusted downward from the 103,000 pieces originally reported in the *Redbook*. Why then, is the 1872-S quarter so much scarcer than its mintage would seem to indicate? It is my opinion that the 1871-S quarter is more abundant than its mintage of 30,900 pieces would indicate. Therefore, it is possible that some 1871-S quarters were minted in 1872 and reported in the 83,000 mintage for that year. Back dating of coins was certainly nothing new in the early days of the mint. The San Francisco facility may have had to use 1871 dated dies until the 1872 dies arrived from Philadelphia.

There also, may be another reason to explain the scarcity of the 1872-S quarter. The Coinage Law of 1873 raised the weights of our silver coins and the mints were ordered to melt uncurrent coins on hand to meet the new law's requirements. It is certainly possible that the San Francisco mint had a large supply of unreleased 1872-S quarters that were melted and re-made into quarters of the new standard.

Whatever the reason for its rarity, the 1872-S quarter remains a very scarce date. Possibly two or three gem uncirculated specimens exist and I know of one choice AU coin. There are also probably a couple dozen coins in the Very Fine to Extremely Fine range. In grades below this level I can recall seeing one choice F-VF, two coins in nice Very Good and a respectable AG-G coin owned by a proud collector who paid less than $40 for it.

The 1872-S is just one of the scarce dates confronting the stubborn collectors of Liberty Seated quarters.

An 1849-O Half Dollar with Recut Stars

by

A. Paul Brill

While examining a newly acquired 1849-O half dollar I discovered that all thirteen stars on the obverse were recut. The coin grades AU-50 and the recutting is very pronounced on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, and 10th stars. Beistle does not mention recut stars on any of the three varieties listed in his book on half dollar die varieties. The coin is similar to his variety 1B for this date which is described as having a high date, one full line of drapery at the elbow and two low lines. The reverse of my coin has a high mintmark close to the crotch of the olive stem and the arrow feather with the mintmark almost touching the stem. However, the letters R and I are not joined by a raised line as described by Beistle. It seems unlikely that Beistle would have seen the recut stars on the obverse and not reported them, especially with all thirteen stars recut. Normally, Beistle reported varieties with recut stars so he must not have seen this variety. I would be interested to know if other collectors have observed 1849-O half dollars with recut stars.

1849-O Half Dollar with Recut Stars

Seated Coinage at the Spring 1990 Long Beach Convention

Rare and scarce date Liberty Seated coinage was in short supply at the spring 1990 Long Beach coin exposition. The only Seated quarters of note that I saw on the bourse floor were: an 1842 in VG, an 1848 in XF, an 1850 in F, an 1852-O in VG-F, an 1856-S in XF, an 1857-S in F, an 1859-O in VF, an 1861-S in VG, a cleaned 1866-S in VF-XF, an 1869 in VG, and an 1869-S in Good. The rare Carson City, San Francisco, and Philadelphia mint quarters were noticeably absent at this show. Under normal circumstances a dozen or more of these rarities are offered at a Long Beach Convention but the coin market seems to be changing.

It is my opinion that the coin investment market is turning to choice examples of Liberty Seated rarities in all grades. The movement of investors into this area could make it more difficult and expensive for the collector to complete his date set of Seated coins. However, the collector always seems to flourish while investors come and go. The search for rare dates motivates most Liberty Seated collectors and stiff competition from investors will never deter the shrewd collector from his collecting goals.

Bill Cregan
LSCC #533

Selling Duplicate Seated Half Dollars

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HALF DIMES

1844	Recut Date, EF, slight bend	$ 29
1851-O	Choice original VF	35
1852	Choice original VF	19
1859-O	Choice EF-45, original	80
1861	1861/0, rare, EF-40+	100
1861	1861/0/1, rare, XF/AU	150
1865-S	Overdate, EF/AU, Breen #3114	100
1866-S	F-VF, original	27

DIMES

1838	Fine, original	$ 13
1838	VF, old cleaning	15
1841-O	G-VG, Small o	12
1846	Good, rare	70
1849-O	Recut Date, Micro o, Ch. EF	225
1850	VF, small reverse scratch	15
1852-O	VG+, original	20
1852-O	EF-40+, choice, scarce	185
1859-O	VF, scarce	36
1871	Choice AU, scarce	115
1872	VF	10
1873	Arrows, VF	35
1874	Arrows, VF	36
1874	EF/AU, Recut Date, Breen #3373	160
1876-CC	EF-40, nice	18

QUARTERS

1840-O	Drapery, VG, scarce	$ 26
1840-O	Drapery, Fine, choice original	52
1840-O	Drapery, VF, choice	79
1843	AU, sharp and nice	120
1846	6/dropped 6, Breen #3966, Fine	85
1850	VG-F, original	35
1853	A/R, EF, old toning	70
1858-S	G-VG, scarce	33
1859	EF, nice toning	45
1861	Choice EF/AU, old toning	70
1862-S	Fine, very scarce	85
1866	Choice VF, original	450
1870	Choice VF, original	160
1871	VG, scarce	32
1871-S	F-VF, nice toning, rare	375

QUARTERS *continued*

1872	EF, nice old toning	$100
1873-S	Fine, original	40
1874-S	VG+, original	24
1878-S	EF, sharp, very scarce	265

HALF DOLLARS

1839	Drapery, AU-50, magenta toning	$265
1840	Rev. of 1838, VF-20, original	300
1840-O	Small o, EF-40, Breen #4752	240
1841	EF-45, very scarce	275
1842	Large Date, EF-45+, choice	125
1842	Triple Date, EF-40	145
1842-O	Small Date, Choice VF-35	2650
1845-O	Recut Date, Breen #4783, EF	115
1846	Tall Date, AU-50, nice	155
1847	47/47, VG-F, Breen #4801	80
1848	G-VG, original	55
1848	EF-40+, nice	200
1849-O	EF, multi-color toning	115
1851	EF, nice toning, rare date	475
1853	A/R, lovely toned AU	350
1853-O	A/R, Fine, original	50
1854	Recut 85, original EF	85
1854	Doubled Date, VF+	90
1855	EF, scarce	125
1855-S	VG, rare date	500
1856-S	VG-F, nice toning, scarce	60
1858-S	EF-45, sharp	225
1859	EF, original	85
1859-S	VG-F, nice old toning	37
1861	EF/AU, ch., deep old toning	100
1864	VF, original, scarce	115
1865	VF-35, scarce	120
1865-S	EF, nice	105
1866-S	No Motto, VF-20, scarce	220
1866-S	No Motto, VF-35, sharp	330
1867	VF-30, dark toning	105
1869	EF, lustrous	100
1869-S	EF-45, sharp, scarce	155
1871	UNC, gold toning	450
1872	VF, toned	47
1874-CC	G-VG, rare	210
1889	VG, problem free, scarce	200

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An 1859 Proof Half Dime

by

Christopher F. Pilliod

Recently, I had an opportunity to examine an interesting 1859 Proof half dime. The coin was impaired and was graded PF-58/58 but it was an interesting piece to study. The coin was of the more common variety with the lettering UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the reverse. The 1859 transitional proof with the new cereal wreath on the reverse is considered an extreme rarity in the series.

However, the more common variety makes for an interesting study in date doubling. The half dime series has many varieties with repunched dates and stars and this proof offers yet another example of this kind of error. The picture shows a nicely repunched 1, 8, and 9. No doubling can be seen on the 5, however the bottom of this digit on this particular piece is obscured by a defect.

1859 Proof Half Dime

An 1878-CC Quarter with Die Gouges

by

Bill Fivaz

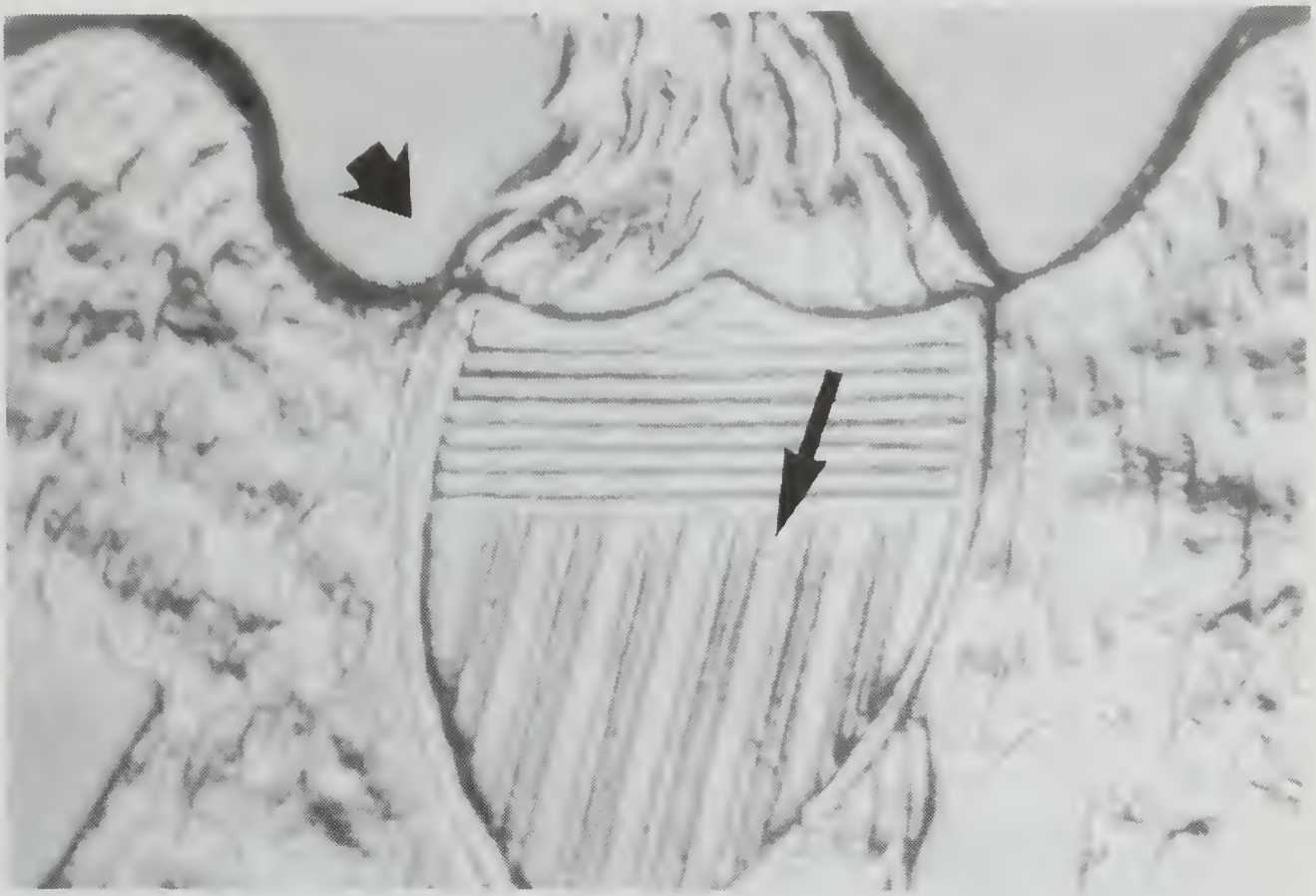
While at a local coin shop last week Bill Hughes of Antique Investments showed me a lovely high grade 1878-CC quarter with some very unusual obverse and reverse die aberrations. He was kind enough to loan the coin to me for photographing and study.

The obverse of this coin shows a long thick die gouge that runs from Miss Liberty's knee, up through her torso and extends out to her left arm. There are two shorter segments that cross this gouge near the arm to form what appears to be an X. There are also two additional short segments visible, one below the right elbow and another in the drapery below the right arm. A rather large die chip is also seen to the right of the shield, just below the thigh.

On the reverse there is another die gouge leading from the fourth horizontal stripe above the first vertical pair of shield stripes and running downward to the 5th vertical pair. There are also clash marks from the obverse shield between the eagle's neck and left wing.

No mention is made of this variety in earlier issues of the *Journal*. In his encyclopedia, Walter Breen mentions a variety for this date from a "cancelled" die showing a long raised line along the upper thigh. This could be the variety that he is describing but no picture is provided in the encyclopedia. Readers might want to check their 1878-CC quarters to see if they have a similar specimen.

1878-CC Quarter with Obverse Die Gouges



1878-CC Quarter with Reverse Die Gouge

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1854	NGC-62, V-2a, brilliant with a touch of toning at rims	$319
1858	PCGS-50, V-1, flashy steel gray	89
1871	PCGS-55, V-1, subdued luster	69

DIMES

1839-O	PCGS-62 PQ, A-6, shattered reverse die, R-7. Sharply struck, extremely clean, brilliant surfaces with uniform golden brown toning about the rims. Among the finest known	$1100
1887	NGC-61, gold and orange toning. Problem free	149
1891	NGC-63, mottled brown, gold, red and violet toning	349

HALF DOLLARS

1858	PCGS-55. Type 1, steel gray with orange and gold in devices	$189
1860	PCGS-61. PQ, clean surfaces under mostly burnt golden toning with electric blue at base. Red and gold around lettering on reverse with blue at STATES & HALF. Flashy!	659

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1845	XF+	32
1847	AU	68
1848	Fine, Large Date	22
1853	XF+, No Arrows	110
1854	VF	10
1856	XF+	28
1857	XF	26
1858	VF+	12
1861	AU+	66
1870	XF+	24

DIMES

1838	AU+, Large Stars	$120
1849	Fine	12
1850	VF	20
1852	XF	30
1853	VF, Arrows	10
1856	VF, Small Date	14
1877-CC	XF	20
1877-S	VF+	10
1886	VF	6
1890	XF	14

TWENTY CENT PIECES

1875-S	XF	$120

QUARTERS

1839	VG, No Drapery	$ 10
1840-O	VG, No Drapery	10
1843-O	Fine	30
1847	VF	26
1853	XF+, Arrows & Rays	124
1854	XF+, Arrows	50
1856	VF+	20
1857	XF+	38
1861	VF+	20

QUARTERS *continued*

1862	XF+	$ 38
1876	XF	34
1877	VF+	17
1877-CC	VF+	24
1891	VF	21

HALF DOLLARS

1841-O	XF	$ 80
1843	XF	68
1845	VG+	30
1847-O	F+	25
1849-O	XF	86
1853	VG+, Arrows & Rays	16
1853-O	VG+, Arrows & Rays	18
1854-O	XF	78
1855-O	XF+	80
1856	XF	52
1857	XF	54
1858	XF+	56
1858-O	XF+	56
1861	XF+	58
1861	VF+	28
1865	VF+	46
1865-S	XF	70
1868	VF+	100
1868-S	VF+	40
1869	VG	24
1871	XF	58
1873	VF+, Closed 3	78
1873	VG, Arrows	18
1873-S	VG	54
1875	XF	56
1876-CC	VF	32

DOLLARS

1847	XF	$258
1859-O	VF+, two reverse digs	148

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An 1858 Doubled Die Half Dollar

by

David Finkelstein

Recently, I purchased a nice Fine + 1858 half dollar at a local coin show. I knew the coin didn't look right and when I got home, I examined it more closely. I was surprised to discover that the coin showed strong obverse die doubling on the shield, rock, lower hand, drapery, and sandal. This variety is easily identified by the four vertical stripes in the obverse shield. I sent the coin to Del Romines of CONECA for verification. Del believes that the coin is either a Class II or Class III doubled die. Unfortunately, in order to be listed as a doubled die by CONECA, the coin must grade either a sharp VF or an XF. Does anyone have such a coin?

The photo of my 1858 doubled die half dollar was taken by Del Romines of Louisville, Kentucky.

1858 Doubled Die Half Dollar

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"Wait a minute," the skeptic will say. "How can these coins, delicious as they may look, be of investment quality? They don't carry a grade in the high 60s and they cost less than a new car!"

The astute collector, however, will recognize a salient point: these coins could never be worth *less* than their selling price. That's right: NO DOWNSIDE RISK. Can the same be said of the highgrade coins being touted as "investments"? Perhaps it's time to educate the public about the difference between "investment" and "speculation."

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QUARTERS

1859-O	**VG detail, original gray color, small neat hole at 10 o'clock, better date**	**$16**
1868-S	**VG/G, original olive gray color, a couple of small obverse scratches, no other problems, attractive**	**70**
1873-S	**AG+, bold date and mintmark, original color, no problems**	**22**

HALF DOLLARS

1841	**F-VF, two pencil point depressions in reverse field and three in obverse field, otherwise attractive, original color, a better date**	**$75**
1844	**AG, clear date, even wear, no problems**	**12**

I am still BUYING Liberty Seated dollars and halves with holes, plugs, scratches or damage of any kind. Send insured or describe fully, along with your asking price.

Lawrence N. Rogak

Attorney to the Numismatic Hobby

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Inconsistancies in the Mintage Availability Ratio for Seated Dollars

by

Dennis Garstang

Logic would tell us that there exists a direct correlation between mintage and availability for dates within the Seated dollar series. That is to say, the greater the number of coins produced the more examples of that particular date there should be for purchase. Early in our numismatic education we all learned the importance of mintage charts. But of course there are many factors that can influence the availability of a given date, with mintage being just one of these factors. Availability can be affected by the number of coins of a specific date that were lost, damaged or melted down. The existence of coin hoards of a specific date can easily affect the survival ratio for these dates.

The purpose of this article is to illustrate certain examples in the Seated dollar series where I feel that availability is inconsistant with the listed mintage figures. Realizing that certain dates are available in some grades and not others, availability will be considered regardless of grade. However, my observations over the past ten years have been made as a collector of Seated dollars primarily in the collector grades from Fine to AU. I personally believe that too many studies emphasize mint state quality when very few collectors will ever own many coins of that quality.

High Mintage, Low Availability

Keep in mind that high mintage is relative to the mintage figures within the Seated dollar series. The 1859 and 1860 dates each have relatively high mintages in excess of 200,000 pieces, yet I have found both of these dates rather tough to find in any condition. The 1854 date with a mintage of 33,140 pieces is very elusive. While a mintage of just over 33,000 pieces is by no means excessive, this mintage figure would seem to indicate that more examples of this date should be available. The 1861 date had a mintage of 78,500 pieces. Look for an example of the 1861 date at the next major show you attend and then compare its mintage to some of the more readily available dates. However, it is very possible that the Civil War played a part in the low availability of all of the dates listed above.

Low Mintage, High Availability

A good example of this type of situation would be the 1844 date with a mintage of 20,000 pieces. While this date does bring some premium over the type price I have observed many coins of this date on the market. Another high availability coin for its mintage would be the 1870-CC date with a mintage of 12,462 pieces. Coins of this issue were probably saved in quantity because it was the first Carson City dollar. It is too bad that more examples were not saved from the Carson CIty issues of the next three years.

I have also found that in the Seated dollar series there is a low correlation between availability and price. Just because more examples of a given date are available does not mean that it will be cheaper. These are just my personal observations but I hope that I have been able to show that mintage figures are not as significant in the Seated dollar series as was once thought. I would welcome any correspondences regarding this article from interested dollar collectors. I can be reached as follows: Dennis Garstang, Box K, Belle, Missouri 65013.

The Unusual Way That I Came To Collect Seated Coins

by

Ron Feuer

On a crisp, cool day in the fall of 1980, I took my metal detector to a rather old college near where I live in North Carolina. This school has had a reputation for admitting affluent young men through its 150 year history. Being adept in the use of a metal detector had been rewarding on a number of previous occasions as I had gone out and dug up Indian cents and V nickels, but Seated coins had always eluded me. I had hoped that my luck might change as I once again began my search for old coins.

I picked out a very stately oak tree between two very old dormatories and began to sweep my detector back and forth in the familiar fashion. After about an hour and a half of searching I had found a few Mercury dimes and Indian head cents. When one finds Indian cents it can be assumed that it is a good spot for further searching. Suddenly, I got a good signal that sounded about two inches deep. I dug up a coin which turned out to be an 1875-S quarter. I couldn't believe it! I probably could have put my metal detector away at this point and kept a wide smile on my face for about a month. But I wasn't tired so I decided to hunt further. There is something about a good find that greatly enhances my sensitivity for subsequent searching and increases my expectation for even more successful results.

As it turned out, I found another Seated coin, an 1843 dime, under that same stately oak tree later in the day. Both coins were in fine condition. On later trips to that college I found many other good coins but no other Seated coins. This was my introduction to Seated coins, a series that I had overlooked in my 22 years of collecting prior to 1980. Now the Liberty Seated series is my favorite!

Quality Seated Halves

1857-S	VF-XF	$250
1862	XF-AU	$250

Both for $475

Joseph Schrettner • LSCC #1253

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ANA Grading

Some Unlisted Seated Dimes

by

Leon Calafiore

Having spent several months digesting the articles in the two collective volumes of the *Journal,* I feel confident in offering the following descriptions of Seated dimes without duplicating the work of others. The descriptions are presented using the notation and terminology in the Ahwash encyclopedia on Liberty Seated dime varieties.

1. **1856, Choice F. SP-7,** Pendant slightly right of center of 5. The date almost touches the base of the rock. The 6 is visibly an addition to a three digit gang punch of the 185. The 6 is larger than the other three digits and it tilts to the right. This may be the same as Variety #11 described by Tony Frederickson in Issue #22 of the *Journal.*
2. **1876, VF. SP-7,** small knob 6. Pendant over far left side of 7. The S is broken, the O partially broken. The date slopes down to the right. Type I reverse.
3. **1876, F. SP-7,** small knob 6. Pendant falls over middle of 7. S and O are complete. Type II reverse. A die crack connects the top of the wreath and runs through the far right leaf of the cornstalk.
4. **1877-S, XF. SP-7,** Pendant left of center of 7. S and O complete. The mintmark is partially filled, the center loops visible.
5. **1888, XF. SP-6.5,** Pendant over far right side of 8. The date is higher than that on variety A-1.
6. **1890, XF. SP-5.5,** Pendant over right side of 9. The 9 is closed.

I hope that the information in this article will prove to be helpful to other club members.

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Some Thoughts on Extended Reverse Shield Lines in the Seated Quarter Series

by
John McCloskey

The vertical reverse shield lines can often be observed extending up into the horizontal shield lines on coins in the Seated quarter series. Casual observations over the years has revealed no particular patterns but I have always felt that these shield patterns could be used to identify reverse dies in the quarter series. After reading the article on these shield patterns by Robert Izydore that appeared in Issue #47 of the *Journal,* I decided to make a more detailed study of these shield patterns from the pieces in my personal collection. I have recorded the results of my study in Table I for the years from 1840 to 1849. I used the same convention that was previously described by Izydore with each integer representing the number of valleys through which each vertical line crossed. I did not use the + superscripts because it was difficult to determine when the lines extended only partially into a valley for many of the reverses. The grade of the coins examined ranged from VF to AU with most pieces being XF. Multiple patterns for a given date indicate different reverses for that particular year.

The results of this study indicate that the shield patterns are distinctive and commonly seen on early Liberty Seated quarters. The extended lines are clearly visible on most high grade specimens but the sharp definition quickly fades for specimens in the VF range. Some coins even in grades close to mint state will show weakness in shield definition due to poor strike, making identification difficult. I found it very difficult to identify the patterns on 1841-O coins because of general weakness in the reverse shield.

The 1842-O Small Date quarter shows a very strong pattern of extended shield lines that easily identify its reverse. These readings were taken on a beautiful AU-55 specimen with clear shield detail. The 1843-O Large O variety shows extended lines in all six line pairs and the pattern clearly identifies this reverse. No extended shield lines were seen on the rare 1849-O quarter. This pattern was obtained from two XF-40 specimens of this rare date with strong shield detail.

The extended shield lines will fade with die wear, weakness of strike and loss of detail due to the circulation of individual coins. Further studies will have to be made to determine if the patterns can be identified easily enough to be used in variety identification and authentication. As a final caution it should be noted that the second pattern given for the 1844 date in my table is from a specimen with the reverse pictured on page 34 of Issue #47 of the *Journal.* This recorded pattern differs from the pattern shown in the picture in the 1st, 2nd and 5th line pairs. But a study of the picture shows that the discrepancies occur where the pictured lines are weak and most likely to fade on individual specimens. Problems such as this will have to be addressed if extended shield line patterns are to be used for identification purposes.

Table I
Liberty Seated Quarter Series from 1840 to 1849
Extended Vertical Lines in Reverse Shield

Date	Reverse Shield Pattern in Line Pairs					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1840	0,0	0,0	0,1	1,0	0,0	0,1
1840-O Drapery	0,0	1,1	1,2	3,3	0,3	0,0
1841	2,1	1,0	3,1	1,0	1,2	0,2
1841-O	0,0	0,0	2,2	2,0	0,0	0,0
1842 Large Date	2,1	3,3	2,1	3,4	2,2	0,1
1842-O Small Date	4,3	2,3	2,4	3,5	1,3	3,2
1842-O Large Date	5,2	1,3	3,2	3,3	2,3	1,3
1842-O Large Date	3,2	3,1	3,3	1,2	1,1	1,2
1842-O Large Date	3,1	3,2	4,3	3,2	2,2	2,2
1843	1,0	0,3	2,1	0,0	0,0	0,1
1843-O Large O	6,3	1,5	4,4	5,5	4,2	4,3
1843-O Small o	5,0	4,3	3,2	3,4	0,4	0,0
1843-O Small o	2,2	5,3	2,3	4,2	1,3	2,3
1844	4,1	1,1	3,0	0,0	1,1	0,2
1844	2,4	1,1	4,4	3,4	2,1	2,2
1844-O	6,3	1,6	2,2	1,0	1,0	1,2
1844-O	1,0	0,5	0,5	0,6	0,1	3,0
1845	3,1	0,1	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2
1845	4,2	2,2	3,1	0,0	1,2	0,3
1845	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
1846	2,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
1847	4,4	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
1847-O	5,0	3,0	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,2
1848	4,4	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
1849	7,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
1849-O	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

HALF DIMES

1856	AU-55	$ 90
1857	MS-61	150

DIMES

1839	AU, rim damage	$ 45
1854-O	VF-20	13
1886	PROOF-62	350
1888	MS-63	350
1889-S	EF-40	55

TWENTY CENT PIECES

1875-S	VF-30	$ 95
1875-S	ANACS-50/50, struck from proof dies, huge wire rim.	550

QUARTERS

1847-O	VF-20	$100
1853	VG-10, A&R	11
1853-O	F-12	29
1853-O	VF-20	60
1854-O	F-12	19
1854-O	AU-55	295
1858	VF-20	22
1871	PROOF-62	695

QUARTERS *continued*

1874-S	EF-40	165
1875-CC	F-12	145
1876-CC	VF, fine reeding	60
1876-CC	EF-40, lightly cleaned	55
1876-S	EF-45++	75
1878-CC	EF-45	125
1878-CC	MS-62	625

HALF DOLLARS

1858-O	VF-30	$ 49
1860-O	Choice EF	75
1870	PROOF-63	995
1873	Arrows, AU-55	490
1876	EF-40	70
1877-S	EF-40	70
1888	PCGS MS-62	1250

DOLLARS

1840	VF-35	$375
1841	VF-25	200
1859-O	PCGS MS-60	1250

TRADE DOLLARS

1874-S	PCGS MS-60	$625

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Neil Clasen LSCC #607 **Mike Kennedy LSCC #611**

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A Fantastic Hoard of Seated Dimes and Half Dimes

On May 17th I spoke to a gentleman in Michigan who was selling Seated coins. He told me that he had hoarded early silver type coins back in the 1950s and after a 30 year vacation from coin collecting, had decided to get back into the hobby. Being an enthusiastic Seated collector I drove several hours to the western part of the state on May 18th hoping to purchase some coins for my date and variety collection of Seated coins. I packed up my reference books on half dimes, dimes, quarters, and half dollars as well as copies of the two Collective Volumes of the *Journal*.

I would have considered the five hour round trip to be worthwhile if I had come back with an 1853 No Arrows dime, some early San Francisco mint half dimes and dimes, and a few scarce varieties. Since this was the first time that I had purchased coins from him, it was suggested that I bring cash. I took what I thought was more than enough money to purchase a large number of coins but as it turned out, I was short a few hundred thousand dollars. What I came upon was a Liberty Seated collector's fantasy.

I started by looking at six Whitman albums of half dimes. All of his coins were kept in Whitman folders or albums, including the mint state and proof coins. There were two complete sets of half dimes and two others that were nearly complete. At least 90% of the coins graded Fine or better. A few of the better date coins I graded were as follows: 1842-O XF; 1846 Fine, XF-AU; 1853-O No Arrows XF; and all of the Philadelphia dates from 1863 to 1867 in both circulated and proof grades.

When I saw the half dimes I was awestruck but when I saw the dimes my heart skipped a few beats. I looked through eights sets of dimes, two were complete and three others were nearly complete. The following is only a partial list of the better date pieces that I graded: 1838-O VF, MS; 1843-O cleaned XF; 1845-O VF, XF; 1846 VF; 1853 NA, XF; 1856-S VF, cleaned XF; 1858-S XF; 1859-S VF, damaged XF; 1860 Proof; 1860-O Fine, VF, XF; 1863 Fine, Gem Proof; 1864 Fine; 1865 Gem Proof; 1866 Fine; 1867 Fine, Gem Proof; 1870-S F/G; 1871-CC Fine, VF; 1872-CC Fine, VF; 1873-CC Fine, VF; 1874-CC VG, damaged Fine, damaged VF, Choice AU; 1879 Fine, XF, Proof; 1880 Fine, VF; 1881 Fine, VF; 1882 Proof; 1883 Gem Proof; 1885-S Cleaned VG, VG+, cleaned Fine+, VF, XF with obverse nicks, XF, MS-65.

The best 1874-CC dime was a beauty. I graded it AU-55. I am not an expert at grading mint state Seated coins but I thought it was very close to mint state. I was told that the highest grade 1885-S dime was graded MS-65 by ANACS but I did not see the certificate.

I have attended many coin shows during the last twenty years but I have never seen as many key date Seated coins. Although I only purchased a few coins from the gentleman, the pleasure that I received from viewing these coins made the trip well worth while. On the following Monday I took off from work to take another look at his coins. I gave the gentleman my copy of Issue #47 of the *Journal* and pointed out the article on the Seated dime survey. Finally, I thanked him for giving me the opportunity to see his fantastic hoard of Seated dimes and half dimes.

David Finkelstein
LSCC #1191

Another Cud Seen on an 1853 Arrows & Rays Quarter

Shown above is a picture of the reverse of an 1853 quarter with a reverse cud near the rim. This coin was sent in by Bill Bugert and has a cud in a different position from the two cuds reported for this date in Issue #36 of the *Journal*. The cud on this coin runs from the rim over the U in UNITED, through the tops of the letters NIT and on to the rim again over the letter T. There is also a very strong die crack that runs from the rim through three leaves, through the letter Q in QUAR and on to the rim below the Q. Has anyone seen a similar coin or one with an extended cud on this reverse?

The Editor

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Stack's to Sell Lovejoy Collection of United States Dimes

In October 1990 Stack's will sell at auction the Allen F. Lovejoy collection of United States dimes.

Allen's interest in coins was sparked in 1930 by a doctor uncle in Chicago who performed physical exams for a life insurance company. One of the company's agents, as a sales gimmick, gave each client who bought a policy a United States cent dated the year of birth of the client's father or grandfather. The agent let Allen's uncle go through his large bag of cents and select a date set. The uncle filled gaps in the set from circulation or by purchase.

In 1930 Allen's uncle gave the collection to him and his two older brothers. One brother quickly decided to collect cents and the other chose nickels. Being the youngest, Allen was stuck with dimes and he has stuck with dimes ever since. By carefully trading and selling coins at coin club auctions and by purchasing others from dealers, Allen was able to acquire a complete date set of dimes from 1796 by 1940. After nearly five years in the army and two years in law school, Allen returned to coin collecting. In the past 40 years he has acquired the most complete collection of United States dimes by date, mint and die variety ever assembled.

The 320 Liberty Seated dimes in Allen's collection include every date, mint, and major die variety, except the 1841-O Closed Bud dime and the unique 1873-CC No Arrows dime. More than 80% of his Liberty Seated dimes are mint state or proof. Allen's collection was specifically referred to in the Liberty Seated dime survey results published in Issue #47 of the *Journal* as follows:

> "Most notable from this survey, was the response featuring an AU or better complete dime set. Only two coins, the 1859-S and the 1872-CC were reported to be AU-50 with the remainder all uncirculated, choice/gem uncirculated or proof."

The proofs are: 1837 large date, 1839 large stars, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1848, 1849 (one sided), 1850, 1852, 1853 1858, 1859, 1859 transitional, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868 blundered die, 1868 perfect die, 1869, 1870, 1871 doubled obverse, 1871 perfect obverse, 1872, 1873 no arrows closed 3, 1873 with arrows, and 1874 through 1891. Pre-Civil War business strike rarities include: the finest known specimens of the 1840 full drapery, 1841-O, 1842-O, 1846, 1849-O, 1850-O, 1851, 1852-O, 1853 no arrows, 1853 with arrows, 1854, 1854-O, 1856 large date, 1856-O, 1856-S, 1857, 1857-O, 1858, and 1859-O dimes; the transitional 1859 pattern dime; and both the very rare small O 1860-O dime and the finest known 1860-O large O dime. Allen also has both Type I and Type II 1861 dimes; and condition census specimens of 1861-S, 1862, 1862-S, 1863-S, 1864-S, 1867-S, 1868, 1869-S, and 1870-S.

Allen also has assembled an outstanding collection of Carson City dimes, including condition census 1871-CC, 1872-CC, 1873-CC, 1874-CC, 1875-CC dimes, and both Type I and Type II reverse varieties of 1876-CC, 1877-CC and 1878-CC. Equal quality is found in his Philadelphia and San Francisco dimes of the 1870s and later with specimens of the 1875-S small and micro S below the wreath and the medium S in the wreath; both Type I and Type II reverse varieties of 1876, 1876-S, and 1877; and medium and small S varieties of 1889-S, 1890-S and 1891-S. Also there are minor varieties in the collection, some of which are not identified in the *Ahwash Encyclopedia on Dime Varieties*.

John W. McCloskey
President LSCC

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HALF DIMES

1840-O	Large O, Choice VF-XF35	$150
1841-O	Med O, VF30+, old cleaning	39
1846	G4, weak reverse rims	110
1848-O	VF-XF35, Large O	45
1858-O	AU50, lustrous, rim nick	59
1869	VF20+	21

DIMES

1838	Sm stars, Ch VF-XF35/40	$100
1838	G6, heavy obverse die break	10
1838	VF20, slightly rough	18
1839-O	Lg O, rev of 1838, VF30/35, some old obv scratches	325
1840-O	Lg O, XF40+, a few digs	85
1841-O	Sm o, VG8, rev die crack	19
1841-O	Medium O, AU50/55, luster	195
1842-O	Small o, VF30/20, weak rev	85
1842-O	Med O, VF30, shattered rev	125
1844	VF30, scarce	115
1846	VF30, lightly cleaned	225
1847	A-1, AU55, granular surfaces	185
1847	A-3, VF30, nice	55
1849	9/8, Choice VF-XF35+	90
1850-O	Medium O, VG7/AG3, scarce	55
1859-O	Medium O, VF30	25
1868	VF30+	32
1873-S	Sm blob s, VF30, a few nicks	50
1874-S	Medium s, nice VF30	165
1875-CC	Close CC in wreath, Ch XF45	75
1876-S	Med s, Large knob 6, VF20	45
1876-CC	Doubled Legend, F15	125

QUARTERS

1838	XF40, three nicks	$ 90
1838	Large denticles, F-VF18	75
1839	Reverse of 1838, XF, porous	85
1840-O	ND, O far left, F12, cleaned	17
1840-O	WD, F10/12, nice toning	29
1841-O	F-VF15	29

From the New Orleans Hoard

1841-O	Sm o to left, Ch AU58, luster	285
1841-O	Sm o, Ch AU55/60, porous	195

QUARTERS *continued*

1841-O	Small o, AU55/50, lightly cleaned	$135
1841-O	Doubled Obverse, AU55/50, porous reverse	195
1841-O	Doubled Obverse, AU50+, water spots	195
1841-O	Doubled Obv, MS60, nice luster over lightly porous crescents	240
1842-O	Large Date, VF20	32
1845	VF25/30, nice	32
1847	Choice VF30	32
1847-O	VF20, weakly struck	75
1850-O	VF30/35	69
1850-O	ANACS SLAB AU50	265
1855	Choice VF30+	29
1859-O	VF20	36
1859-O	XF40+	87
1861	XF40, name in obverse field	24
1865-S	VG10+, nice	79
1867	PCGS SLAB, PROOF-61, a cameo gem	625
1869-S	F12, obverse die breaks	95
1876-S	XF-XF35	29

HALF DOLLARS

1840	XF40+, some light scratches	$ 60
1842	Sm Date, VF30, light marks	72
1843	Choice XF-AU45/50, lustrous	79
1844-O	VF20	35
1845-O	VF30	42
1853-O	VF20, obverse die breaks	52
1857-O	VF-XF35+, sm rev scratch	39
1858	AU55, cleaned, obv scratch	82
1858-S	Medium S, XF40, rim digs, nice toning	98
1859-O	XF40, light obverse scratch	49
1864	VF30, sccarce	59
1868-S	XF40, heavily cleaned	52
1870	XF40	92
1872	AU50, lightly cleaned, a few marks	89
1874	XF40, a few tiny marks	110

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The Chicago Post Office Fire of 1871

I enjoyed Bill Bugert's inventory of Seated half dollars in the Smithsonian Institution published in issue #47 of the *Journal.* The obvious answer to his question about a corroded 1871 half dollar that appeared to have been in a fire would be the Great Chicago Fire which began on Sunday, October 8, 1871. The Chicago Post Office did in fact burn in that conflagration. The following extract is from pages 261-262 in the book *History of the Great Fires in Chicago and the West* by E.J. Goodspeed, published in 1871.

> A little before two o'clock on Monday morning, when the fire was raging, G.W. Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Railway Mail Service and Special Agent of the Post-office Department, arrived at the Post-office, convinced that the building would go. He was, of course, aware of the responsibilities which he would incur in removing anything from the office; but chose to disregard the requirements of red tape in the interests of the citizens who would suffer by the loss of their letters. When remonstrated with by a gentleman connected with the customs, he defined his position by saying that they might wait for an act of Congress if they chose, but he should do his best to save what he could. On this declaration of principles he proceeded to load everything portable into wagons belonging to the department. The force of men was large, the transportation ample, and the direction vigorous, the result being that every letter, both registered and common, in all the boxes and compartments of the office was hastily dumped into sacks and removed out of reach of the fire. All the mails in the building were rescued, with the single exception of a small one which came over the Fort Wayne Road, and which, owing to the fact that it was four hours late, no one knew anything of. The registers and other matters belonging to the office, including the furniture in one of the private rooms, were also loaded in the wagons, and the whole was taken up town. Some of it had to be moved a second time, its first station having been on Harrison street; but everything eventually brought up in safety. On the evening of Monday, Mr. Wood telegraphed to Postmaster-General Creswell what had been done, and on Tuesday was instructed by that officer to spare no expense to carry on the mail service as well as before.
>
> The work of getting out the safes belonging to the office from the ruins was undertaken a day or two after the fire had passed over, and the result was, in the main, satisfactory. There were some $60,000 worth of postage-stamps on hand, and these were rendered useless. Though not totally destroyed, they were so badly charred as to render their use impossible. They were forwarded to Washington immediately. The most valuable contents of the safes—the books of accounts—were found uninjured and in perfect order. The only exception was the cash-book, which, through some inadvertence, was left in a desk.

Not only did the Post Office building burn, but there is a written account stating that the contents of the safes were forwarded to Washington in the immediate aftermath. I suspect that among those items salvaged was a certain 1871 Liberty Seated half dollar.

Harry E. Salyards
LSCC #505

James A. Stack, Sr. Dime Collection Sold

The James A. Stack, Sr. collection of Liberty Seated dimes sold through a Stack's Auction in January 1990. This collection was complete by date and mint but did not contain an example of the 1873-CC No Arrows dime.

A significant result of this sale was the extremely high prices realized for the Carson City dimes in mint state. A selection of the record setting prices for these issues will be given below. An 1872-CC dime described as Brilliant Uncirculated, sharply struck, sold for $22,000. The 1873-CC Arrows dime described as Choice Brilliant Uncirculated brought $55,000. The 1875-CC dime with the mintmark in the wreath and described as Choice Brilliant Uncirculated sold for $5,225. An 1876-CC dime in Choice Brilliant Uncirculated brought $8,800. Another 1876-CC dime described as Gem Brilliant Uncirculated and proof-like sold for $25,300. An 1877-CC dime described as Choice Brilliant Uncirculated brought $17,600 and an 1878-CC dime in Choice Brilliant Uncirculated sold for $27,500. All of the coin prices listed include the 10% buyers fee.

Comparing these prices with those listed in Coin World TRENDS shows just how unbelievable and significant these prices are. This just goes to show that the right coin in the right sale at the right time can bring astronomical results.

Weimar White
LSCC #660

Liberty Seated Dimes

1838	Partial Drapery, VG-F	$ 75
1839-O	Fine	15
1840	Drapery, Fine	55
1842-O	Good	7
1845	Fine	9
1846	VG	57
1849	VG-F	8
1850-O	VG	11
1851-O	VG	10
1852	VF-35	24
1853	Arrows, VF-35	30
1853-O	VF-25	28
1865-S	Fine	25
1867-S	VF-20	55
1873-S	Good	8
1875-S	Mintmark below wreath, VF-25	9
1875-CC	Mintmark below wreath, VF-35	$ 22
1875-CC	Mintmark in wreath, VF-20	10
1876	XF-40	19
1877-CC	Fine	6
1878-CC	VF-25	85
1884	VF-35	14
1886	VF-35	14
1887	XF-40	19
1887-S	XF-45	25
1889-S	VG-F	14
1891	VF-25	8
1891-O	Fine	6
1891-S	Fine	6

All coins may be returned within 14 days for refund if not completely satisifed. Payment should be included with order. Personal checks must clear. Include $1.50 postage and insurance on orders under $50.

Carl Borngasser

110 West Columbia Street • Fairbury, Illinois 61739

Letters to the Editor

We are writing to ask that any advertisements soliciting holed, damaged or otherwise impaired coins not be accepted for publication in the *Journal*. Issue #47 contained two such ads. These ads imply sanction by LSCC for repairing and selling altered numismatic material. It was noted that one advertiser promised not to ever offer for sale any repaired pieces. What happens years from now when his estate is sold? We believe that there is a high risk that repaired coins may find their way back onto the market, even if this is not the intention of the owner at the time his piece was modified to improve its appearance. An unsuspecting collector can be hurt financially and psychologically by unknowingly purchasing one of these coins that has gone through plastic surgery.

One of the stated purposes of the club is to enhance fraternal relations among members. By running such ads, there is a chance that a relationship could be damaged because of a transaction involving a repaired piece which was artificially made better. We believe that damaged coins should be left in that state. The club should do everything possible to avoid encouraging the proliferation of deceptive coins through alteration practices.

John Kroon
LSCC #472

Weimar White
LSCC #660

I wish to report that I have an 1839 ND half dollar which I believe to be an earlier die state than the one reported by Byron Powell in Issue #47 of the *Journal*. I grade my coin an EF-45 with a few circulation marks. There is still faint mint luster outlining the eagle, the arrows, and the leaves. I mention the condition because I cannot see the die break after it crosses the right wing and extends out into the field toward the letter R. My coin also has a prominent die break across the bottom of the letters HALF DOL. I cannot determine from the picture in Issue #47 whether the illustrated coin has this die break.

The obverse of my coin has sharp detail except for the toes of Miss Liberty's foot. The toes as well as the rock below the foot are flattened. This does not appear to be damage but rather the result of die lapping. All of the cross lines in the stars on my coin are complete.

Frederick Campbell
LSCC #838

I would like to report that the 1839 ND half dollar grading AU-55 with the bisecting die crack that I listed in the National Numismatic Collection is of the same variety as the coin reported by Byron Powell in Issue #47 of the *Journal*. I also have a nice XF example of this variety in my personal collection. Other examples of this variety are out there but they are relatively scarce.

Bill Bugert
LSCC #455

In his article on Liberty Seated halves from the Smithsonian Institution, Bill Bugert mentions an 1871 half dollar in high grade that was damaged by fire. I would like to report that a Post Office and a few other buildings were lost in a fire in Chicago in 1871. Coins allegedly damaged in this fire are occasionally found in old collections and hoards. These are usually halves dated from 1868 to 1871 and in high grade. Such coins are usually a bit oversized from having been heated.

Tom DeLorey
LSCC #273

Recently, I purchased an 1848-O half dime in XF condition that displays repunching in the date. Each number in the date can easily be seen as doubled under low magnification. I have allowed several other people to examine this coin and all parties concerned have agreed that there is doubling on each number of the date. Does anyone in the club have any information on an 1848/1848-O half dime? Any information that could be provided on this variety would be greatly appreciated.

John Zitz
LSCC #1133

I would like to report that recently, I purchased an 1842 Large Date half dollar with a triple date that is identical to the coin reported by Bill Fivaz in Issue #33 of the *Journal*. My coin is a choice XF-45 example with all of the identifying details given by Fivaz. The coin was purchased as a doubled date variety from a dealer, which once again points out that close examination of coins can bring rewards. If there are other examples of the triple date variety in addition to the two specimens already reported in the *Journal,* I would be interested in knowing about them. Please address correspondences to: Paul Brill, 230 Mitchell Road, Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387.

Paul Brill
LSCC #749

LSCC Annual Meeting

The 17th Annual Meeting of LSCC will be held in conjunction with the 99th Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association. The convention will be held at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, Washington from August 22nd through August 26th, 1990. The club meeting has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 23rd. Please try to attend. There will be an announcement of the results of this year's election of Officers, an announcement of the article selected by the members as the best to appear in the *Journal* during the past year, a short business meeting and an opportunity for members to exchange information on Seated coins.

The business meeting will include a financial report for the current year by the club Secretary-Treasurer, the setting of dues for the next club year, a proposal for the selection of the best article to appear in the first 50 issues of the *Journal* and a discussion of plans for the publication of a third collective volume of the *Journal.* Every attempt will be made to keep the discussion on each agenda item short and to the point so that we can have a brisk, informative and productive session.

The Editor

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REVERSE PICTURE OF 1878-S HALF DOLLAR

Your comments on any of the articles, ads, or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

John McCloskey
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